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Yugoslavia

Federal—The Government said that the Yugoslav Army has "no obligations" in Bosnia-Hercegovina and that "only" the Army of the Serb Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina is "empowered to protect territories populated by Serbs," TANJUG reports. Serbs in Hercegovina had earlier appealed to the FRY to send troops to combat Croatian advances in the region, and President Dobrica Cosic suggested in a letter to UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali that Yugoslav Army troops might intervene to protect Serbs in Hercegovina.

Poland

During a visit to Washington, Defense Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz said that the United States had "admitted the possibility" of broadening NATO membership "after certain period of time," PAP reports. Onyszkiewicz added that Poland's potential acceptance into NATO could "in fact occur much sooner" than its entrance into the European Community.

Bulgaria

The ethnic Turkish Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) continues to demand three ministerial posts and a deputy premiership in its negotiations with the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) on forming a governing coalition, BTA reports. Although Prime Minister-elect Filip Dmitrov, an SDS member, said that there are "no considerable differences" between the parties, the two sides continue to disagree on whether to grant the Ministry of Justice to the DPS.

Czechoslovakia

Prague Radio reports that the constitutional law on the division of the Federation's assets was not endorsed by the Czech part of the Chamber of Nations. "Only 19 votes were in favor, rather than the 46 required." Although the bill was passed on the Slovak side and in the People's Chamber, it had not been endorsed. However, after a recommendation from the arbitration committee, the bill was passed by the Federal Assembly. "The chambers expressed agreement with a suggestion that the article comprising the application of the historical principle in dividing the property of the Federation be deleted." Chairman Filip Sedivy said that "the question as to when the session will be resumed is open."

Meksi, Serreqi Hold Talks With Hungary's Kupa

AU1511164592 Tirana ATA in English 1149 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Tirana, November 15 (ATA)—In his meeting on November 14 with the Hungarian minister of finances, Mr. Kupa, Premier Meksi thanked him for the visit and commitments to help the Albanian economy. In this context, he considered the signing of the agreement to lift double taxes as very positive and a further step to strengthen relations between the two countries.

As regards the latest political events in former Yugoslavia, the Hungarian guest, Mr. Meksi said that the Albanian Government has always been in favour of a correct and peaceful solution to the national problems, also including the crisis in Kosovo.

Mr. Kupa, after conveying to the Albanian premier the message of greetings sent by the Hungarian premier to Mr. Meksi, expressed the desire that the two premiers meet as soon as possible. He said that the Hungarian Government shares the same stand with the Albanian Government concerning the interethnic conflicts in former Yugoslavia. Dwelling on the economic plane, he considered as indispensable the intensification of market economy through free initiative.

In a joint meeting held on November 15 the Albanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Alfred Serreqi and the Hungarian minister of finances, Mihal Kupa said that pressure against Serbia is insufficient.

West Europe is not playing its proper role in this relation. They said reiterating the two governments' stands in favour of the observation of borders and peaceful solution of the crisis in former Yugoslavia through a constructive dialogue.

They said: Now, with the development of the democratic processes all the conditions exist to intensify relations between Albania and Hungary.

Mr. Serreqi said: We have much to learn from your experience in this period of transition towards the market economy, in implementing the reform with less pain, in the field of legislation, privatization and other aspects.

In his meeting with the Hungarian Minister of Finances Kupa, the deputy minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation, Naske Afezolli, said: Your visit will surely encourage economic cooperation also in the field of investments to create joint ventures.

The Hungarian minister, pointing to the decrease in the volume of goods' exchanges between Hungary and Albania, said that this should not be allowed any more. He said: Our duty as a state is to create conditions to the traders and businessmen for a free movement, for constant contacts among them.

Ruli, Hungary's Kupa To Abolish Double Taxes

AU1411212592 Tirana ATA in English 1924 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tirana, November 14 (ATA)—In the context of broadening the relations between the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Hungary an agreement to eliminate double taxes was signed on November 14 in Tirana. The agreement was signed by the ministers of finances of both countries, Mr. Ruli and Mr. Kupa.

The signing of this agreement marks a significant step in broadening the relations between our two countries. I hope conditions will be prepared in the future to sign another agreement on preserving investments, the Hungarian Minister Kupa said.

Mr. Ruli said the signing of this agreement was an act of the visit of Mr. Kupa to Albania and this act creates a new chance to the influx of Hungarian investments in Albania.

Ministers Discuss Investments

AU1411170192 Tirana ATA in English 1113 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tirana, November 14 (ATA)—Genc Ruli, minister of economy and finances, briefed the Hungarian minister of finances with the economic-financial hardships facing Albania on the road of the reform. Nevertheless, he said, you are on the right road, and with the help of donating countries involved in bringing Albania out of crisis as soon as possible, you will attain what you are currently striving for. Explaining some of the phenomena which deepened the current crisis in Albania, Mr. Ruli mentioned the crisis initiated in 1990, the perceptible fall of national production which led to the export-import reduction, increase of unemployment and inflation, etc. The sector of industry which faces a lot of problems, he said, inherited an outdated technology. For the time being, Mr. Genc Ruli said, it is still difficult to say which enterprise has a future and which should go bankrupt because all of them owe debts. As for the reform in the sector of agriculture, he said that privatization in this sector was done earlier than expected due to the new political circumstances and mentality of the Albanian peasant.

In regard to the perspective of changing the difficult situation, Mr. Genc Ruli appreciated the aid offered by donating countries and IMF and EC and explained in length the potential of the Albanian economy to change it, because we are sure that it is only us who will practically change this bitter economic reality, said he.

In conclusion he briefed Mr. Kupa with the needs of Albania for investments particularly in infrastructure, technical assistance, etc. The Hungarian minister of finances, Mr. Mihaly Kupa, appreciated the program of the Albanian Government on the reform. He dwelt in length on the Hungarian experience for the application of this program, which is not for the shock therapy but

for a step-by-step system. Suggesting the possibilities of extending capitalism in Albania, he said that the number of owners must increase by granting the enterprises to those who are still working there at present.

As for the possibilities of Hungary to help Albania, he said that it is necessary that the Albanian party pay off the debt for one thousand tons of wheat it owes to Hungary. This will offer chances to the Hungarian Government to give new credits. He said that he has it difficult to make promises in figures without the debate being over in the Hungarian parliament on the approval of the budget. He said that we will send in Albania specialists to find out new chances of cooperation and that the Hungarian Government will put up no obstacles to all the traders or managers of private firms for communication, provided that they are equipped with regular documentation.

UN Human Rights Mission Promises Assistance

AU1311155692 Tirana ATA in English 0917 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Tirana, November 13 (ATA)—In the context of an agreement between the Albanian Government and the UN for the compilation and realisation of a program of aid for Albania in the field of the human rights, a UN mission paid a working visit to Tirana recently. It was made up of two experts of the Human Rights Center in Geneva and by other specialists of this field. The mission organized a seminar on the human rights in the administration of justice with the participation of the specialists of police, the Army, and the staff of the jails.

Another direction of the activity of the mission were the contacts with main institutions and nongovernment organizations to value the situation of the human rights in Albania and to define its priority needs in this field. As far as this is concerned, it will present a special report to the UN. The aim is to set up the Albanian institutions of the human rights and to improve those that are having such an activity.

The mission noted that Albania is developing a fruitful bilateral cooperation with the international organizations especially in the field of the human rights. But a complete report on the present cooperation with them as well as an exact defining of the priority needs should be made in order that aid that comes from the UN be not the same as that from these organizations and vice versa. Based on the UN program and the Albanian needs, the aid includes experts for the preparation of legislation, qualification of jurists, lawyers, prosecutors, and advocates, scholarships for studies in different countries financed by the UN and others.

Martinez Assures Berisha of Council's Support

AU1411165392 Tirana ATA in English 0941 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Tirana, November 14 (ATA)—"I am very optimistic for the future of Albania. You are marching on the right road." These were the words of greetings the President of the Council of Europe Martinez said to the President of Albania Berisha in their meeting yesterday at the Presidency. "I have come to ensure you that you are an open country for the Council of Europe."

President Berisha acquainted him with the situation in Albania, the proceeding of the reform, concretely in the economic field, and the wide scale and speedy privatization. Without the speedy and immediate privatization both in the city and countryside, he said, we can not attain a speedy development of the country, the establishment and maintenance of order, the reform on the organs of justice which is proceeding slowly. Then, he informed Mr. Martinez of the work performed in drafting the constitution, adding that we should also have a package of laws on human rights.

Mr. Martinez praised the performance of the parliament and democratic government. He expressed his desire to cooperate and praised the efforts made to draft a more democratic constitution saying that responsibility lies on you, the Albanian people. Don't expect the constitution from abroad, it is your responsibility. We will offer you everything you need. We are ready to put pressure on our countries' governments to support any initiative for concrete cooperation with you. He said the European Bank also has signed an agreement with the European Council so that the latter follow its investments. I ensure you that the European Bank will very soon come to Albania and provide concrete aid. Many projects related to the future of your country need financial support. I uphold that this country deserves a great investment.

Later they dwelt on the crisis on the region. Mr. Martinez said they are not entirely pessimistic on the question of Kosovo. My concern is that the borders should not be touched. Each community should live within the actual state.

President Berisha, after reassuring him of Albania's stand not to change borders, said that the people of Bosnia is living through a big drama. The international community's efforts to protect the children and women of Bosnia, who are dying of the shells and cold, have attained no concrete result. Milosevic will transfer the scenario of this conflict to Kosovo and Macedonia, something which provokes a Balkan war. We demand and insist in taking urgent measures to prevent conflict in Kosovo, in demilitarization, neutralization of the Army, and their being under UN surveillance.

A serious danger is threatening Macedonia, too. We have always supported and support Macedonia. We have expressed ourselves in favour of the inviolability of its borders and try to create a climate of understanding and cooperation with Macedonia. But the latest events in Skopje, the criminal killing of the Albanians have been committed by the same big Serb hand that realized the killings in Pristina. We uphold that Macedonia's recognition by the international community be conditioned

by the transformation of this state into a state of free citizens, because only in this way there will be stability for yourself and the region.

I maintain that the international community should not equal Serbia to Montenegro. The Montenegrins are an ancient state with freedom-loving traditions, despite the past conflicts and misunderstandings. We are ready to have friendly relations with an independent Montenegro, which aspires for democracy and peace.

Council of Europe Seminar on Parliamentary Procedure Ends

AU1511162692 Tirana ATA in English 1132 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Tirana, November 15 (ATA)—The seminar "Questions of Parliamentary Procedure", organised by the Council of Europe in Tirana, ended.

In the third and last day, Mr. Hano Hartig, leading administrator and secretary of the steering committee on human rights, read the report. The main conventions of the Council of Europe with special emphasis on the European Convention on the Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms.

He especially devoted attention to the Convention of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms, which will also be signed by Albania.

The significance of this convention does not stand in the raising of problems, but in the engagement to realize it. He said adding that the latest events in former Yugoslavia prove of this and make us conscious to educate people, through all the ways, to observe and protect their rights. The seminar, which lasted for three hours, was followed by Albanian parliamentarians, members of the Supreme Court, pedagogues, jurists, and others.

Bills on Wages, State Budget Approved

AU1211095392 Tirana ATA in English 0909 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Tirana, November 10 (ATA)—On November 10, the Council of Ministers, presided over by Premier Aleksander Meksi, approved several draft laws proposed by the Ministry of Economy and Finances.

The government members also discussed on the draft decision on some changes and supplements to the decision of the Council of Ministers dated September 3, 1992, No. 393, on the wages of the budgetary institutions. There were reactions about this draft decision, especially by the Radio-Television representatives who demanded a supplement to the wage for the working people of this budgetary institution, motivated by the working difficulties. They said they would discuss on this point taking into account the supplement to the wage of the working people of education and health working in remote zones and under difficult conditions.

There were no many debates regarding the approval of the draft law on the approval of the budget of the National Committee of Energy, which is on its initial stage of structuring as an important institution for the future of the Albanian economy.

In this meeting the draft decision according to which the state defrays the expenditures for the citizens who die in or outside the country was approved. The meeting also discussed the draft budget for the administrative expenditures and investments for the state control service, the recognition of the work seniority for remunerating the military men who have been previously working in civil sectors or who have been political prisoners, and the appointment of a government group to coordinate the economic policy. This group is considered as an inter ministerial committee, is made up of representatives of various ministries, and is run by the premier.

'Serb Army Provocation in Pristina' Protested

AU1311142192 Tirana ATA in English 1306 GMT 13 Nov 92

["Efforts by Serbia to Trigger Conflict in Kosovo and Macedonia—Statement of the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs"—ATA Headline]

[Text] Tirana, November 13 (ATA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses concern over the grave provocation triggered off on November 11, 1992 in Pristina by the Serb authorities against a group of Albanian youngsters claiming the life of one of them. The Serb Army provocation in Pristina, which followed the grave provocation of the Macedonian police against the Albanian population in Skopje, testifies to a constant anti-Albanian policy and intentional effort by Serbia and its pro forces to trigger off conflict in Kosovo and Macedonia at any cost.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania draws attention on the danger of extending conflict from Serbia to the whole region. Albania will do its best to prevent the conflict and adheres to the principles of settling conflicts through dialogue and peaceful means and render its maximum contribution to the success of the efforts of the European and world community to solve the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

Provocating acts of assassination of the Albanians in Pristina and Skopje, the slandering against the so-called Albanian troops built up in the border, or the absurd claims of senior officials of the Ministry of the Interior in Skopje for interventions by the Albanians outside Macedonia, do nothing but impede efforts of Albania and international community to establish stability and peace in the region.

The development of the events make it clear that the repressive measures on the Serb aggressive policy in the Balkans should be augmented. This will be to the good of

peace in the region but also to prevent further extension of conflict, which would not confined within the Balkan borders.

President Berisha Addresses Army Reform

AU1611102392 Tirana RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE in Albanian 30 Oct 92 p 1

[Speech by President Sali Berisha at meeting on Army reform in Tirana on 28 October: "Reform in the Army—An Historic and Imperative Necessity of the Time"]

[Text] I think that this discussion we are having is a continuation of the ideas cherished by the distinguished military officials who wanted another army. This idea cost them dear, but their sacrifices were not in vain. It is true that pluralism brought more advanced concepts on the Army among the overwhelming majority of Albanian military men. This is the reason the Army refused to stand next to dictatorship and supported democratic processes. Though completely unprivileged, the military men received democracy extremely well. At the beginnings of pluralism they had the great wisdom to chose Albania among all parties.

The idea of another army, of a new army is a great idea; it is an idea that is related to the role and duties of the Army in a democratic system. This is the idea of passing from a closed Army to an open one, into an army of cooperation and discipline. I want to emphasize that every dictatorship is a military state. From this derives the importance of the Army reform in establishing the law-governed state. The Army will respond to Albania's foreign policy, thus being an institution of the law and democratic state in Albania. Our foreign policy is a policy of peace and stability. We are trying to convince ourselves that every contradiction characterizing the present situation in the region will be solved by way of dialogue and understanding. It is an undeniable truth that we are presently living in a extremely tense Balkan situation, but through its policy Albania will make every effort to avoid conflict. At the same time, it will not allow, even for a moment, the violation of democratic victories in Albania and the infringement of the country's integrity.

It is necessary to strengthen the reform so as to create a modern army based on the scientific military art and other democratic principles deriving from the Helsinki Charter and other international acts of justice. In this direction the relation and cooperation of our Army with the armies of the neighboring countries and NATO institutions constitute an encouraging fact in strengthening the reform that has just started. The establishment of relations with NATO, a pact that was and continues to be a guarantee of peace and democracy, is an event of importance for our Army. We are trying to be integrated into this powerful institution as soon as we can, because we deserve it, as Albanians have never considered NATO to be a danger for the freedom of the peoples and that Albania was the first East European country to abandon the Warsaw Pact. Meanwhile now that the NATO membership procedures are in progress, we, for our part, will not break ties and cooperation with it.

As a result of the conditions we are living in, it is obvious that we must cut Army expenses. However, this does not mean that we will thus reduce the country's defensive ability. On the contrary, the whole reform consists in increasing the defensive ability and modernizing the Army as soon as possible. There cannot be a strong army in a poor country with a weak economy. That is why we must stabilize our economy.

Concerning the reform we are carrying out in the Army, it is very important that our officers learn the genuine military art, an art free of ideology. Knowledge taught at the military school should be of a high level. I fully agree that the military school should be at the same general level as the university, including military skills that will be the basic criteria in accepting and assessing new officers.

The reform in the Army is proceeding successfully within the framework of the whole reform in Albania. After the 22 March victory, the great victory of democracy is the nest that the reform is building in everybody's mind, a nest that is growing bigger, thus consolidating democratic bases in Albania. The reform in the Army guarantees first of all the onward march of democracy and modernization and progress.

Ethnic Turk Movement Insists on Cabinet Posts

AU1511203092 Sofia BTA in English 1946 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 15 (BTA)—The ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) insists on having one deputy prime minister, three ministers, four deputy ministers and two chairmen of committees in the new cabinet. We are observing several criteria, one of the major ones being a 1:4-4.5 correlation. The Union of Democratic Forces has 110 seats in parliament and the DPS 24, DPS leader Ahmed Dogan said before his latest round of consultations with Prime Minister-designate Filip Dimitrov today. We have no claims on the enforcement ministries, Mr. Dogan said, but added that it is extremely important for these ministries to be well-balanced. Last week there were reports that the DPS wants posts in these ministries and some publications even mentioned a concrete candidate of the DPS for the Ministry of Justice. For us the Ministry of Justice is not an enforcement ministry, the realities in the world and in Bulgaria give us no grounds to view it as such and this is an issue which we may discuss, Mr. Dogan said in connection with yesterday's statement of Filip Dimitrov that the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) views the Ministry of Justice as an enforcement ministry.

The Movement for Rights and freedoms will also insist on a social orientation of the policy of the future cabinet. In this evening's central newscast of the Bulgarian Television Mr. Ivan Palchev of the DPS read a declaration of the movement according to which by raising the issue of the poor, the DPS is expressing the interests not only of its electorate but of the entire Bulgarian people.

Today Mr. Filip Dimitrov also had consultations with the New Social Democratic Party and with the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party in the SDS.

Dimitrov, Dogan, Lyutfi Negotiate

AU1511192992 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Today at 1800 at the Council of Ministers, Ahmed Dogan and Yunal Lyutfi had a talk with Filip Dimitrov on forming a coalition government. Mr. Dogan repeated the demands of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS], namely, a deputy prime minister, three ministers, four deputy ministers, and two chairmen of committees. According to him the demands justly reflect the existing one to four or one to five ratio between the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] and the DPS.

The enforcement ministries are not as important as preserving the balance, Mr. Dogan said. We have no claims for the enforcement ministries, but we adhere to the principle that the cheese and the knife should not be in the same hands. He specified that first it must be determined whether the Ministry of Justice is an enforcement ministry because the DPS does think it is such a ministry.

Dmitrov Comments on Talks

AU1511134992 Sofia BTA in English 2042 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 14 (BTA)—I hope that we will succeed in restoring mutual trust and the natural interrelations between the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), Mr. Filip Dimitrov said in the "Panorama" weekly political roundup programme of the Bulgarian Television tonight. This week the Movement for Rights and Freedoms requested for the first time to take part in a coalition cabinet with the SDS and received its approval. After being officially appointed by President Zhelyu Zhelev as prime minister-designate, Mr. Filip Dimitrov started consultations on the formation of a new cabinet. On the whole, there are no considerable differences in the approach of the SDS and of the DPS, Mr. Filip Dimitrov said after yesterday's talks between the economic experts of these two political forces.

Mr. Filip Dimitrov expressed his determination not to yield from the principles of the reform in the formation of the next cabinet. According to him, the government should work in an atmosphere in which there are no constant plots against it. The Intelligence Services should be placed under the control of the administration and parliament. The prime minister-designate pointed out that the agreements which Bulgaria has reached with the international financial institutions should be implemented.

Asked whether the ministry of justice demanded by the DPS should be viewed as one of the enforcement ministries, which the SDS has categorically stated that it will not cede to the DPS, Mr. Dimitrov said that this is the stand of the parliamentary group of the SDS.

Speaking in the same programme, Mr. Edvin Sugarev, deputy floor leader of the parliamentary group of the SDS, said that there are serious grounds to believe that if the DPS sticks to its demands and if they are met in full, the proposed cabinet may not be elected by parliament as part of the parliamentary group of the SDS may vote against it.

Asked whether Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev will be included in the new cabinet, Mr. Dimitrov said that he will decide whom to invite to the new cabinet when he completes his consultations. This week there were persistent rumors that Stoyan Ganev will not be included in the new cabinet.

There are no backstage dealings in the formation of the cabinet, Mr. Dimitrov said. If both political forces show the necessary common sense than we may achieve the desired result.

Party Rejects DPS Claims

AU1411184492 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] A program broadcast by the local Varna Radio Station this morning was mainly devoted to the composition of the future government.

Deputies of the Democratic Party [member of the Union of Democratic Forces, SDS] participated in the discussion. In connection with the Rights and Freedoms Movement's [DPS] claims for seats in the cabinet, Georgi Markov, deputy chairman of the Democratic Party, declared that there is no (?question) of the SDS relinquishing the Ministry of Justice or any of the law enforcement ministries to the DPS. He specified that this should not only apply to ministerial posts, but also to the rank of deputy ministers.

DPS Modifies Claims

AU1311144892 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] A well-informed source in parliament has shed some light on what the specific wishes and demands of the Rights and Freedoms Movement [DPS] are regarding the coalition cabinet.

The DPS is reported to have given up its claim for control of the law enforcement ministries, but it continues to pursue its claim for control of social affairs. In a letter handed to the chief secretary of the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] National Coordinating Council that was later passed on to Filip Dimitrov, the following persons are mentioned: Evgeni Matinchev for deputy prime minister in charge of overseeing social and economic policies, and Emil Buchkkov for justice minister. In addition, it becomes clear from the DPS list that the movement has claims regarding the Committee on Standardization and the Forestry Committee—it is not clear whether they have in mind the posts of chairman or deputy chairman. The DPS also has candidates for the post of chief secretary of the Interior Ministry, but no specific names are mentioned. Having given up its claims to the law enforcement ministries, the DPS demands the right to give its views during the relevant consultations with the SDS on the specific candidates proposed by the SDS coalition for these posts.

A little later our reporter Olga Ivanova reported that the SDS parliamentary group has decided to accept for the moment the DPS candidature for deputy prime minister with oversight of social and economic problems. It also accepts the DPS claim to the post of minister of labor and social welfare, and the candidature of Mrs. Stefka Dacheva for this post. The discussions continue.

Dimitrov Denies Breaching UN Embargo on FRY

AU1311203992 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Filip Dimitrov, who has been called upon to form a new government, rejected all accusations that Bulgaria has breached the UN embargo against Serbia and Montenegro, REUTER reports from Sofia.

We have instituted rigorous checks on our western border, and so far we have not registered a single case of violation of the embargo, Filip Dimitrov declared to REUTER. We will be merciless toward people who attempt to circumvent the ban on exporting petroleum products to Serbia, he added.

REUTER recalls that in August Bulgaria restricted journeys by private vehicles to neighboring Serbia in an attempt to prevent the smuggling of petroleum products, but according to REUTER the road transit traffic to Serbia is not affected by this measure, and it is claimed that dozens of tankers cross the border every day. According to the report, Western diplomats assert that many of these vehicles, whose final destinations are Bosnia-Hercegovina or Macedonia, unload their cargoes in Serbia.

We cannot stop the transit traffic because this might lead to cutting off our only route to Europe and block the communications between the Middle East and western Europe, Filip Dimitrov said, according to REUTER.

Embargo Broken by Gas Supplies From Bulgaria

AU1311154392 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 13 Nov 92 p 12

[Report by Michael Schwelien: "Afrodite Trades With Death"]

[Text] Petric/Sofia—They call her the "petroleum queen of Petric," and she acts like a queen: Afrodite Kalliakmanis, Greek, 35. She gets into a new Lancia—"only the newly rich drive a Mercedes"—and races to the air strip of Petric. There are 30-40 tankers waiting this afternoon to take gasoline and diesel to Serbia. They will take the fuel from this border town in southwest Bulgaria via Macedonia to the internationally ostracized country.

A few small problems have to be settled. "Afrodite," the truck drivers call, "Afrodite, come over here." She pulls a few German banknotes, exactly DM300, from the pocket of her brown leather skirt. Graciously she hands the banknotes to a Bulgarian policeman, who, at the end of the runway, guards the airport, which has been turned into an oil market. The town of Petric profits from the dirty business, or at least some of its leading representatives benefit from it.

The policeman causes trouble, he haggles. "This is not possible, Afrodite." The mayor has decided: DM150 standing fee are to be paid for each tanker on the air strip, another DM100 for pumping the fuel from the

Greek to the Serbian tankers. The little queen has cleared four such convoys today, DM300 are not enough. Disgusted, she pulls another DM50 banknote from her skirt. The man is satisfied.

Afrodite has problems, but none too big. The Bulgarian customs officials expect DM2 per tonne—for the "speedy and smooth" clearing. They stamp the freight papers with both hands. This adds up to quite some money. Afrodite keeps medium-sized amounts ready in her handbag. She carries real money—dollars—in a briefcase. It is as heavy as a stone.

This is how the deal works, which makes the UN embargo against Serbia a joke: Tankers and railroad cars come with fuel from Thessaloniki. In Petric, favorably located in the triangle between Greece, Bulgaria, and the formerly Yugoslav Macedonia, it is sold to intermediate agents like Afrodite. She pays $225-246 for a tonne of diesel, $235 for a tonne of gasoline. The Serbs pay $280 for the oil, $320 for the refined gasoline. On the paper these Serbs are, however, good Bosnians. Freight papers? All of them are perfect, the destination of the goods is always Sarajevo, Pale, Trebinje, or another place in Bosnia, which is not subjected to the embargo.

Recently, however, there has been the trouble with the double licensing [preceding two words in English]—the oil merchants must enter not only the destination in the papers, but also present an import license from there. An enormous impudence, a stamp of the Bosnian Chamber of Commerce in Sarajevo costs 5,000 Bulgarian leva in Petric—almost another DM400 in additional fees.

One consolation: The four Bulgarian customs officials in Petric—three of them jointly own a shipping company—have definitely stated that they are unable to distinguish between forged Bosnian import licenses and real ones. Afrodite and her fellow-players—who like to drive up to their offices in the customs building in a Mercedes—are completely indifferent to the fact that the Serbian—excuse me, Bosnian—trucks are all new. Modern trust have an advantage. They have their own pumps. These pumps spare them the maneuvers in the pit near the air strip, where older tankers let gasoline and fuel flow from one tanker to the other by using gravity. "Little Kuwait" is what the place is called now, which, until recently was a restricted military area because it was so close to the Iron Curtain. "Little Rotterdam" would be more suitable, because oil is not produced here, but only traded—25,000 tonnes over the past six weeks.

If the Bulgarian Government really wanted to, it could easily stop the oil flow to Serbia. The Serbs, who pretend to be Bosnians, come with their suitcases full of cash in cars with Belgrade license plates. It is easy to recognize them; they do not make any efforts to disguise themselves. They and their suppliers could be arrested. A money transaction is also a violation of the embargo. In addition, it could hardly be expected that an emissary of the Bosnian Government would present a protest note in Sofia if 100 tankers of "his" fellow-citizens were to be impounded in Bulgaria. It is completely impossible that a convoy of Bosnian trucks can drive from Sarajevo to Petric and back without being stopped.

"What do you think of the embargo, Afrodite?"

—"The work of naive people; in addition, I also have a company in Romania—there is always a third path." "You are not afraid of the Mafia or of others who want to make a profit?" —"Here one never knows; I am Greek, until recently this was still a Stalinist terror state." "May one ask how much your daily profit is?" —"$10,000, and it is mounting; in winter people need heating." "One last tiny thing: You are supplying killers." —"I buy and sell—that is all."

They call him "Gospodin," gentleman, and he behaves like a gentleman—correct, obliging, all in all a higher-echelon official: Reiner Beussel, German, 40 years old. Normally, he heads the Main Customs Office in Rosenheim, now he heads the CSCE observer group in Bulgaria to monitor the embargo. He is a well-traveled man, married to a Polish woman, and father of a two-year-old girl. For weeks he has observed the fraud at the Bulgarian border. He, too, has his own view of the embargo: "A complete failure."

He sees similar things at other border checkpoints, too. On the other hand, he can only make assumptions about the cargo of the ships on the Danube. Russian and Ukrainian captain, whose governments have agreed to the blockade and have even sent blue helmets to the areas of war, pass through the checkpoints without stopping. Experience with customs tells him that transports of frozen goods, also with trucks, are particularly popular among arms smugglers. Being afraid of having to pay damages, hardly a customs official dares to let frozen gods thaw. Beussel has briefed his headquarters in Brussels about the scope of fraud—so far without success. In view of the audacity of the perpetrators, he forgets his natural courtesy for a moment: "In view of that, one's knife snaps open in one's pocket."

They call him prime minister, and the constraints of the office are straining the democrat: Filip Dimitrov, Bulgarian, 37. He asked for a vote of confidence in parliament and lost. Even though Sofia is energetically trying to polish its reputation as "Paris of the East," the situation is different in the rural areas. The rusty combines from the time when Bulgaria was still called the "16th republic of the Soviet Union" because of its extreme loyalty, have not yet been privatized. And when collectivized land war returned to the original owners, the Turks went empty-handed. There have already been murders because of that.

Even Sofia, which has been so peaceful until recently, has been infected by the Balkan bacillus: intrigues, suspicion, nepotism. Dimitrov, who studied law and is a passionate writer, must try in "talks in restaurants" to heal his coalition with the Turkish minority. At the same time, he must defend himself against President Zhelyu

Zhelev, who is interfering in foreign policy. The independent trade union Podkrepa has also turned away from Dimitrov. And the successor organization of the communists accuses him anyway of pursuing policy only for a fraction of the population.

With a loud toll, a French clock in the prime minister's office reminds one every 15 minutes how quickly time passes. He has other things to do than to make sure that the embargo is enforced. Of course, there is "one or the other" violation, any law can be "circumvented." However, the "scope" is important: "If somebody gives me proof, I will act."

Ganev Supports Sending UN Forces to Macedonia

AU1511172792 Sofia BTA in English 1709 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 15 (BTA)—Bulgarian diplomacy will continue to support each step aimed at establishing stability in the region of the Balkans, Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev said in connection with Macedonia's request for the stationing of "blue helmets" on its territory.

In a live telephone interview from New York for the Bulgarian Radio this morning, Mr. Ganev, who is chairman of the 47th session of the UN General Assembly, expressed the opinion that such a decision may contribute to stability in the Balkans, all the more so bearing in mind some signs of an aggravation of the situation in the Republic of Macedonia.

We would never undertake an act contradicting the sovereignty of Macedonia, Mr. Ganev said. He expressed his conviction that in this complicated situation Bulgaria will succeed in remaining a balancing force in the region pointing to the clear and consistent steps of Bulgaria's foreign policy which he described as pragmatic and in conformity with the realities.

Dwelling on the debates at the United Nations on the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mr. Ganev expressed the hope that a decision may be adopted soon which would make peace possible, or rather would bring peace closer to this region.

The Bulgarian Government has not been accused of violating the sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev said in response to a question.

Cabinet Considers New Danube Control Measures

AU1311141292 Sofia BTA in English 2121 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 12 (BTA)—Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev's report on upgrading the implementation of a government decree dated June 5, 1992 with which Bulgaria joined the UN sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro was presented for discussions at the Council of Ministers today. The report motivates the need for additional measures to ensure the strict implementation of this decree. The Bulgarian Government is suggested to undertake the following measures: to establish a working group including top administration officials in a number of ministries and central departments to secure the implementation of the Council of Ministers decree—the Trade Ministry is recommended to equalize the regimes of export and import of strategic goods, fuel in particular, to these of the European Community; launch a joint Bulgarian-Romanian control over shipping along the River Danube after the Danubian commission has considered this matter, provide data on losses incurred as a result of Bulgaria's joining the UN sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro to interested ministries and departments.

* * *

The Bulgarian Foreign Ministry today proposed to the Secretariat of the Danubian Commission to introduce an additional point on the agenda of its forthcoming session on November 16. The Bulgarian side suggested that Danubian commission members exchange opinions on the implementation of the UN sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro and ways of securing the normal shipping along the River Danube, transit traffic included, in compliance with the established international practice and the effective international regime. The Foreign Ministry approached all Danubian countries asking them to back the introduction of this additional point on the agenda of the forthcoming session.

Zhelev Receives EC Commission Delegation

AU1611115092 Sofia BTA in English 1144 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 16 (BTA)—Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev received today representatives of the Commission of the European Community—Mr. Daniel Guggenbuhl, chief EC negotiator on Bulgaria's association; Mr. Pablo de Benairdes, director at the EC Commission; and Mr. Michael Leigh, personal adviser to the vice-president of the Commission, Mr. Frans Andriessen.

Mrs. Mariyana Todorova, adviser to the Bulgarian president, told the press that the agreement on Bulgaria's association to the EC has been coordinated in principle. Some specifications are yet to be made and the final round of the negotiations, scheduled for early December will be of decisive importance. Access to the markets of Western Europe, which account for 30 percent of Bulgaria's export and import, is of great importance for Bulgaria, according to Mrs. Todorova. This would help the structural adjustment of Bulgaria's economy.

Mrs. Todorova expects the guests of the EC to show understanding for the problems which Bulgaria is now experiencing. In this respect the achievement of an agreement on metals will make it possible for this country to start negotiations with GATT and with the European Free Trade Association. The proposal of the

EC Commission for including a protective clause on metals would place Bulgaria in unfavorable positions at the negotiations with these two international institutions.

At the meeting President Zhelev called for flexibility at the final round of the negotiations on Bulgaria's association to the EC. Bulgaria is making reasonable compromises and the Commission is also showing flexibility, according to Mrs. Todorova.

Zhelev, EC Delegation To Discuss "Open Issues"

AU1411144992 Sofia BTA in English 2141 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 13 (BTA)—Mr. Pablo Benavides, director at the Foreign Relations Directorate of the EC Commission and leader of the delegation of the EC commission for the negotiations on Bulgaria's association to the EC; Mr. Daniel Gugenbuel, head of the Department on Relations With Poland, Czecho- Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania at the Foreign Relations Directorate of the EC Commission and chief negotiator on the part of the EC; and Mr. Michael Lee, adviser to Mr. Frans Andriessen, EC commissioner on foreign relations, will arrive here on November 14 and 15, Deputy Foreign Minister Valentin Dobrev told BTA.

On Monday [16 November] the EC delegation is expected to have meetings with President Zhelev; Mr. Filip Dimitrov; Mr. Ilko Eskenazi—leader of the Bulgarian delegation to the association negotiations; Mr. Dimitur Ikonomov, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Mr. Stanislav Daskalov—deputy minister of trade; as well as with leaders of the National Assembly.

During the visit they will exchange opinions on the stands of the two sides on the still open issues in the negotiations on the association of Bulgaria to the EC.

Liechtenstein, Switzerland Investing in Airlines

AU1411185892 Sofia BTA in English 1821 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 14 (BTA)—Prince Philip from Liechtenstein is expected to arrive here on Monday [16 November] accompanied by businessmen, the STANDART NEWS and 24 CHASA dailies report. According to agreements reached in advance Prince Philip will bring 35 million dollars in investments which will be used for perfecting and developing the Bulgarian air traffic control system, the STANDART NEWS daily writes.

According to this daily, Mr. Fred Pischl, commercial director of the Swiss ATS-IM AG which has established contacts with the ministry of transport and Balkan Airlines in connection with the elaboration of a Bulgarian-Swiss programme for cooperation, will also arrive on Monday.

The intentions of this Swiss firm specializing in air transport, ground base infrastructure and flight control safety, are to take part in the recently announced privatization of Balkan Airlines. Representatives of this company also intend to take part in the financing of flight control and of nuclear reactor safety.

Bulgaria and Switzerland have signed an agreement, according to which Bulgaria is to receive 32 million Swiss francs in gratuitous aid and a credit line of 45 million Swiss francs, the STANDART NEWS daily recalls.

Assembly Fails To Endorse Division of Assets Bill

LD1311134692 Prague Stanice Praha Radio Network in Czech 1130 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Report by Stanislav Benda from the Federal Assembly building]

[Excerpts] Deputies decided the fate of the constitutional law on the division of the federation's assets about 90 seconds ago. In order to keep you in suspense, I will now cite events in the sequence in which they took place. First of all Federal Prime Minister Jan Strasky informed deputies in writing about the government's proposal on the addendum to this constitutional law. [passage omitted]

The voting then took place. Of the proposed amendment motions only petty legislative amendments had gone through. The government addendum I mentioned was approved without changes generated by today's very short debate.

Now for the most important thing. The constitutional law on the division of the federation's assets was not endorsed by the Czech part of the Chamber of Nations. Only 19 votes were in favor, rather than the 46 required; in other words 26 votes were lacking. Although the bill was passed in the Slovak part of the Chamber of Nations and in the People's Chamber, it has not been endorsed. [passage omitted]

[Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech at 1200 GMT on 13 November, in a report also by Stanislav Benda, adds: "You have just joined us at the best possible moment because the results of the voting are now displayed on the board. I have to say that, even now, the second time around, when the voting on the bill as one entity took place, the bill was not approved. The change is that on this occasion it did not go through in the Slovak part of the Chamber of Nations, where only 19 voted in favor, while 45 votes were required. This means that the Slovak part of the Chamber of Nations was short this time by 26 votes. Although the bill went through in the Czech part of the Chamber of Nations and in the Chamber of People, the constitutional bill on the division of federation assets has not been endorsed in the second round of voting either. I'll tell you in the next newsreel what the next step will be."]

Assembly Passes Bill

LD1311155892 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 1500 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Today, after arbitration procedure, the Federal Assembly passed the constitutional bill on the division of property of the Czechoslovak Federation and its transfer to the republics. The bill was passed when, after the recommendation of the arbitration committee, the chambers expressed agreement with a suggestion that the article comprising the application of the historical principle in dividing the property of the federation be deleted.

The joint meeting of the chambers was then adjourned. Filip Sedivy, who was in the chair, said that the question as to when the session will be resumed is open. One possibility is 17 November.

Agreement Reached on Law Ending Federation

LD1511193592 Prague CSTK in English 1836 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 15 (CSTK)—According to Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) Chairman Michal Kovac, an agreement was reached here yesterday at a meeting of the leaders of parties and movements represented in parliament.

Kovac told the Slovak news agency TK SR, that participants agreed that a constitutional law on ending the Czechoslovak Federation will be discussed by the parliaments of both the Czech and Slovak Republics simultaneously and a similar stand on it will to be taken, to enable the federal parliament to start debating the law.

Kovac said that not all the opposition parties present at the meeting insisted on calling a referendum on the division of Czechoslovakia and therefore there is a real chance that the federal parliament will approve the law next week. Slovak Parliament Chairman Ivan Gasparovic said after the meeting that the Slovak parliament is ready to discuss a draft law.

Differences Between Constitution Drafts Viewed

AU1411210792 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 10 Nov 92 p 3

[Report by Marie Koenigova: "The President Is To Have Less Authority"]

[Text] Prague—The Czech Government has revised the draft constitution that its commission drafted in Karlovy Vary three weeks ago. The definitive version, which the government should submit to the Czech National Council this week, was awaited with anticipation following Prime Minister Klaus' criticism—expressed on several occasions—of the Karlovy Vary version. Which stipulations have been fundamentally changed by the government's intervention?

First and foremost, all references to the Charter on Basic Rights and Freedoms have manifestly disappeared from the government version; the Charter will not be an element of the constitution. The stipulation that everyone has the right to freely decide on his nationality has also been omitted.

The article setting out the principles for the political system has also undergone changes. Whereas the Karlovy Vary version states that "political decisions are determined by the will of the majority expressed in a free vote while respecting the minority," this is omitted in the government version.

Constitutional Laws By a Simple Majority Alone

The most important change in the chapter on legislative authority is the reduction in the number of votes necessary for the approval of constitutional laws and international treaties from a three-fifths majority to a simple majority of all the elected deputies and senators. The government is granting the senate the right to adopt—based on a government proposal—legal measures concerning issues that cannot be postponed; this right is to be granted when the Chamber of Deputies is dissolved. It was originally envisaged that the senate would have 80 members elected for an eight-year term. However, the proposal being submitted to the national council is for a senate with 81 members elected for a six-year term. One-third of the senate will face reelection every two years. Lots will be drawn to decide which senators—at first—will have a mandate for two and four years.

The government's stance toward draft laws has also undergone a change. Both versions refer to the government's right to air its views on all the drafts submitted to the Chamber of Deputies. The government has added another stipulation to this: "The Chamber of Deputies shall not discuss draft laws concerning the state budget without hearing the government's point of view."

According to the government version, the president of the republic will only have the right to return constitutional laws to the Chamber—originally, this right applied to all laws approved by the Chamber. The Chamber will decide on a returned law by a three-fifths majority.

The government is also proposing to annul the right of individual deputies to submit an interpellation to the government. According to the government version, either the entire chamber or a group of at least 10 deputies may submit an interpellation.

The President With the Entire Government, Not the Ministers

In its chapter on executive authority the definitive version contains no stipulation about the president being elected by a secret ballot. As opposed to the original draft, it makes possible a three-round election of the head of state. A significant change is the fact that the president should not have the right to demand reports from and discuss issues with individual government members, but should only hold discussions with the government as a whole. The government is also proposing withdrawing the president's right to present reports to the chamber and senate on important political issues and to submit his recommendations to them.

The chapter on judicial authority, among other things, omits a stipulation on the location of the Constitutional Court. The Karlovy Vary version confirmed the status quo, that is, that this court will be in Brno. A change has also been made in appointing judges to this court—while the authors of the Karlovy Vary version recommended that the president, the senate, the chamber, and the government each appoint three of the 12 judges, the cabinet's version proposes that the president and the senate each appoint six judges.

A Referendum Is Not Being Taken Into Consideration

In its chapter on territorial self-administration, the Karlovy Vary version only allowed for the possibility of subdivision into communities and lands. The government version refers to communities and higher territorial self-administration units called "a province [kraj], a region, or a land." However, what is important here is the fact that the Karlovy Vary version refers to a referendum as the form on whose basis communities and lands may merge. The government version makes no reference to a referendum at all and mentions only a constitutional law for creating or abolishing a higher territorial self-administration unit.

As far as other changes are concerned, the government version differs from the Karlovy Vary version in the wording of the oaths to be taken by constitutional officials and in offering immunity to deputies involved in criminal proceedings—if the appropriate parliamentary chamber refuses to agree to them—for the period of their mandate (and not forever). Moreover, according to the government draft, it is only possible for a deputy or senator to be arrested if he caught red-handed or immediately afterwards.

According to the government, the Chamber of Deputies cannot be dissolved three months before the end of an electoral period (the Karlovy Vary version referred to six months).

Knazko: Treaties Need Ratification After Split

AU1311140692 Prague CSTK in English 1950 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 11 (CSTK)—After the split of Czechoslovakia on January 1, 1993, the two new republics' parliaments will have to ratify again the treaties and agreements concluded by the Czech and Slovak Governments, Slovak Foreign Minister Milan Knazko told journalists today.

According to Knazko it is necessary for the agreements to be ratified again once the two republics become subjects of international law. Knazko ruled out the possibility of developments after January 1, 1993, being complicated by the two sides' demands for modification of the agreements. Even now deputies are not obliged to approve the submitted drafts automatically, he added.

The drafts were concluded during the two governments' talks in Javorina, north Slovakia, October 26, and Zidlochovice, south Moravia, November 9. They must be approved by the Czech and Slovak parliaments by the end of the year. If the deputies table any cogent comment on the documents, the republic governments will deal with them again, Knazko noted.

Poland's Skubiszewski Pledges Republic Recognition

LD1311134892 Prague Stanice Praha Radio Network in Czech 1130 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski has said that Poland will recognize the Czech and Slovak Republics as new states and subjects of international law immediately after they have come into existence. Following his meeting with the Czech National Council delegation, he stressed that it is very important for Poland to transfer the good relations that exist with Czechoslovakia to relations with the two independent states due to come into being soon. He also pointed to the importance of continuing Visegrad cooperation between Warsaw, Prague, Bratislava, and Budapest even after the division of the federation.

Slovak Premier, Russian Envoy Discuss Future Ties

LD1311135692 Prague CSTK in English 1026 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava Nov 12 (CSTK)—Russia is ready to recognise both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic immediately after the Czechoslovak Federation ceases to exist, and to establish its consular representations in both of them, Aleksandr Lebedev, Russian ambassador to Czechoslovakia, said in Bratislava today.

During his meeting with Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar, the two sides agreed to conclude a bilateral Russian-Slovak treaty that should reflect new geopolitical and economic relations between sovereign Slovakia and Russia, Lebedev told journalists. The treaty should be concluded during Meciar's visit to Moscow planned for the beginning of 1993. Compared with the current, still valid Czechoslovak-Russian treaty, the new one will have to be modified, Lebedev said.

Slovakia will remain a prior political and economic partner for Russia, which should help solving the Russian enterprises' indebtedness and resuming the Slovak-Russian trade exchange, Lebedev pointed out. According to him, Russia shows willingness to support the Slovak Republic also in the military field. These treaties' wording must be completed by Slovak-Russian commissions of experts, who should present the final draft treaty as early as at Meciar's arrival in Moscow.

Lebedev expressed grief at the death of Czechoslovak politician Alexander Dubcek. An official Russian delegation will attend Dubcek's funeral on Saturday, he added. Dubcek, the leader of the 1968 Prague Spring reform movement which was crushed by a Soviet-led invasion, died in Prague November 7.

Meciar's Television Address to Slovaks

LD1511195992 Bratislava Slovak 1 Television Network in Slovak 1741 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Television address by Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar: "Ten Minutes With the Premier"—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Good evening, esteemed fellow citizens. On the basis of your repeated requests, with the agreement of Slovak Television news department's editorial office, I will again be addressing you in the "Ten Minutes With the Premier" program. The aim of this program is not to show my face but to tell you about government activities—views and stands that the government has on events in our country—and thus come under your scrutiny. The aim is to implement those plans which we have been promising you for you to be able to follow the government's activity.

Those who do not like this have an advantage over me, they will be able to switch the television set off or change channels. I do not have such an advantage, however. I cannot turn away from the responsibility for the functioning of the state, for the functioning of the republic, and those basic issues which form the framework of our life. We will, together with the news editorial office, prove that Slovak Television can be independent and that it need not have bad relations with the government.

Many changes are taking place in the field of journalism that are necessary and welcome. We can see the first steps, sometimes wrong, sometimes not quite finished yet. This is not important, but what is important is the fact that journalism is getting ready for the role which is ahead for it in the state. [passage omitted]

The situation in Slovakia sincer the election has been developing in the way some parties' programs had assumed. The condition in which we took over the republic was substantially worse than in 1990. It would be possible to provide numerical evidence wherein the disputes lie, or it could be numerically proven what has deteriorated. It would be possible to mention all the problem areas. However, a meaningful philosophy of life is not to be found in complaining. It is found in an assessment, which is pointing forward. These pointers are to become suggestions for the next steps which the government, the parliament and all other subjects which form a state should take.

On the basis of a realistic assessment, we have written a report on the state of the Slovak Republic up to 30 June 1992. It is a report, which has an assessment value for us. It is politically significant in that we are responsible for all the changes that will follow this report. [passage omitted]

The condition, which we have inherited, requires a solution. To keep saying that there is crisis everywhere around us, in the whole of the former East Bloc; that the symptoms of the crisis are to be found in some Western countries including the strongest ones; and that certain

evidence of stagnation or decline is found everywhere—all this is one facet of the issue. However, the important thing, which gives meaning to our work, and which requires commitment from each one of us, is to look for ways out. There should be commitment on one's own behalf, and to the result. A commitment to the halting of negative trends, and to future development. This cannot be managed by the government alone. We have to manage it together.

In order to proceed on this path, every society has to fulfill several conditions. A realistic assessment of the situation has shown that the disease has spread and the cure would take a long time. Therefore, the treatment will have to be surgical, and it will hurt. But I know that it will all lead to recovery, which gives the hope and meaning to the measures that are being taken.

When we say that we demand the foundations for a new stability and the reversal of negative trends, we have to be realistic about the path that we want to take to that end. The first precondition is political peace, political stability, and a balanced life, with interests harmonized and balanced between social groups, political parties, and all subjects that form our society. You have paved the road to stability within political parties in the elections. Today, each party has only the influence that you have conferred upon it, no more and no less.

However, every party—apart from its accountability to the group of people who elected it—bears responsiblity for the state as a whole. [passage omitted]

When we speak of the stability of the political system, we speak of the stability of the state. Recently there has been a lot of discussion about whether or not there should be a new election and whether or not it would be democratic. No one doubts the democratic character of the last election. If the policy on the state setup is the culmination of the policy statements of those parties which form three-fifths of the parliament, it does not look like instability. The fact remains that two-fifths have not realistically judged the political situation and development should be analyzed by them in their own parties. Why should we all get involved in their wrong conclusions through a new election? [passage omitted]

As the government has offered conciliation to political parties we have to look for a new culture of behavior, that is, to respect that in which we are individual, to respect the individuality of our programs, not to wage a destructive political struggle, which is often uncivilized, and do excuse politicians—myself included—if we overdo things. We, too, are only learning. We should not elevate this struggle to the level of the meaning and aims of our activity, but view changes that are beneficial for Slovakia and its citizens as the meaning and aims of these activities. Political stability thus requires a new system of work for us all, there is the need to respect the results of elections, to respect the division of responsibility and extent of responsibility for events in our country, to respect the responsibility, which we have toward the future steps, not only for today, but for tomorrow and the day after.

On the basis of this we are also conducting extensive talks with the Czech side. In some of my future addresses I will tell you what these talks were like, what the basic trends were, and why we decided on such a system.

The date 1 January is approaching, this date will be historic for us, historic in the sense of a state setup. But it will be a big mistake if we say that on 1 January we will only have a new state setup, as there will also be new rules of management, new taxation systems, a new system of social security, and a new system of Czech-Slovak relations in banking, trade and other spheres on 1 January. We will present ourselves in a different way in public. There will be a new system of Slovakia's integration in the international division of labor, international diplomatic, and other relations.

Thus, esteemed fellow citizens, when we talk about the future, then we see it as positive, as hopeful, as something for which there is a reason to live, something that is worth believing in, which is worth supporting. Thus, let us prepare everything in a responsible way for 1 January in order that afterwards life can take on a new quality, and become more purposeful, fuller, and more valuable. This is a government wish, this is a mandate, which you gave us in the free democratic elections, which we pledged to fulfill. No matter how complex the situation, we are all in it together—together in looking for and finding ways out. Thank you.

On Federation's End, New Elections

LD1311210592 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1700 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vadim Meciar by correspondent Stukovska on 13 November; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Stukovska] According to you, 1 billion marks are going to be provided for Slovakia by representatives of banks, business circles, and important companies in Germany and this is the issue about which almost everyone is talking about. The sum, which is double the budget of all of Germany has taken by surprise not only journalists, but also economic experts who describe this sum more likely to be born by your wishful thinking. [passage omitted]

[Meciar] This is a lie. A PRAVDA reporter who published this statement invented it. PRAVDA went on to comment on it, subsequently it was reported by F1 [television station], and now it is said that Meciar said he had an offer of 1 billion marks. I never said this. In an interview I granted to a correspondent of the Slovak Republic Press Agency I said that the people with whom I held my talks had represented the companies whose overall value amounted to 1 billion marks. An offer of

this size was never made. This is of course something of which the prime minister of the Slovak Government is well aware.

I would like to point out another thing—what right does the PRAVDA editorial board have, which until now I considered to be objective, to manipulate the prime minister's view in this way? I stopped trusting this editorial board. [passage omitted]

[Stukovska] Let us move to other topical issues of the week. Almost everything is ready now for the termination of our common state—the only thing missing is the law to give a stamp of approval to the steps taken so far. Nevertheless, neither of the parliaments is inclined to assume a responsibility for the Federation's termination. Mr. Prime Minister, are you able to bring this great chess game to its end on a winning note?

[Meciar] We did not play to win. We played to create a realistic form of people's lives, realistic form of our nation's life, realistic existence and conditions of life in the Slovak Republic. There are no winners in this game. The only result is the creation of two subjects, which will continue to cooperate, but on political level will be independent from each other.

You cannot call this a chess game—this is a historical process which is culminating these days, it brings to conclusion something what has begun decades ago. [passage omitted]

There is one interesting side to the Federal Assembly deputies. It is interesting from the psychological point of view—the mixture of the feeling of personal interest and historical responsibility. By performing their historical role and abolishing the Federation they are abolishing themselves without any kind of further guarantees. These two steps are fused to the extent that the deputies are trying to seek some kind of escape, some kind of solution. They know there is no other way except to postpone things and are arriving at a situation in which the National Councils cannot ratify agreements since, namely, the law on the termination of the Federation gives the right to conclude such agreements as international ones until the termination of the Federation. [sentence as heard]

Then there is another interesting point, also a very important one—the postponement of these measures until the end of the year creates a shortage of time so the expected schedule of procedures to allow the division of property in a very civilized way, to avoid large material losses, to avoid fluctuation of currency, credit relations, etc., makes this process less favorable.

The situation in individual deputies' clubs varies. This morning I spoke with Mr. Klaus. We agreed with the view expressed yesterday by the chairmen of Slovak political parties that the mandate of the Federal Assembly deputies should expire, that compensation due for their activities, emolument, etc., should be transferred to the republics, to the National Councils of the republics, and those ought to decide about their further application, either in the parliamentary process or some other one. In Slovakia this decision has not yet been made. We will discuss it next week.

[Stukovska] Your view of the future fate of Federal Assembly deputies is known. You said that their transition to the National Council was out of question. What is true about the allegation is that this is mainly so because the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia does not want to give up the dominant position guaranteeing your Movement the smooth passage of constitutional bills in the National Councils?

[Meciar] This again is an inaccurate formulation. There is a proposal by the Party of the Democratic Left that the situation of incorporation be solved by the transfer of all the Federal Assembly deputies to the National Councils. But, for instance, nobody elected the Social Democratic Party to the Slovak National Council. The proportion of votes cast for the Federal Assembly and for the National Councils differs. That would be a revision of the elections results in the Chamber which is the dominant one today.. Why should the Movement lose votes that it gained in the elections by such a manipulation? [passage omitted]

New elections—and yesterday we agreed on that—were out of the question in everybody's view, with the exception of the Coexistence, which does want a new election. In the present situation new elections would damage Slovakia to such an extent that the one who would win would in the end conquer a ravaged land. That is why we are against new elections and for the democratic arrangement and recognition of the elections results.

[Stukovska] The level of public opinion is constantly being disturbed by the Trnava University case. We have already heard your viewpoint. But in connection with this matter, are you not worried about Slovakia's positive image abroad? A possible tactless statement at the address of foreign diplomats could cost a ministerial chair. What can be expected in our country in this matter?

[Meciar] I talked yesterday with Mr. Paul Hacker, consul general of the United States in Slovakia. We explained a lot of things to each other. I apologized to him for the statement of the education minister. At the same time I drew attention to certain procedures, which to us seem not very well understood and on the basis of this we have both found that we will forget about as a whole and continue as if nothing has happened. [passage omitted]

As for Trnava University, there is one thing. The society should be interested in educating people. The young people who are there should have their education guaranteed on a high qualitative level. One needs to think in the following way: It is for the first time that the university is being born out of nothing. The law is bad, the method is bad, the people who are being trained are not suitable—something has to be done about it. The Committee of the Slovak National Council is giving

some recommendations to the government. I cannot see any reason why the government should not discuss the matter again and accept the recommentation for future development. In my view, the best thing would be to suspend the efficiency of the law while the university is prepared from the personnel, technical, and organizational viewpoints. Up to then the faculties should be set up as workplaces of Comenius University where the faculties would grow, and after gaining their independence, separate.

[Stukovska] The funeral of Alexander Dubcek will be attended tomorrow by former President Vaclav Havel who is prepared, during his visit to Bratislava, to meet representatives of the Movement for Democratic Slovakia. Is the HZDS [Movement for a Democratic Slovakia] prepared to meet Vaclav Havel this weekend?

[Meicar] Mr. Havel has not asked HZDS officials for a meeting. At least I do not know about it. At the same time he has not asked me or any other members of the government for a meeting, as far as I know. We know that he will be here in Slovakia, why should he not come? It is the right of every citizen to travel where he wants, so he will carry out this usual trip. My agenda today and tomorrow is filled with many significiant interviews. We are using the opportunity of various delegations coming from various states so that we might brief each other on the situation that exists in our country and devote ourself fully tomorrow to the pious act that is connected with the departure of Alexander Dubcek. The pious act for Dubcek and a simultaneous celebration meeting with Havel are not compatible, if only because of the relationship between them. [as heard]

[Stukovska] The relationship of the current government towards the journalists is not good. The latest in the PRAVDA interview: You complain that they have not raised their voices against the articles in the newspapers of RUDE KRAVO and KOSICKY DUM, which slander you and offend you. Mr. Prime Minister, in this case did you not apply the principle of collective blame on the journalists because—and the abovementioned papers will forgive me I hope—you really think that they markedly influence the public opinion in Slovakia?

[Meciar] The question of cooperation between the government and the journalists is a very painful problem in our country. But if the same editor of PRAVDA says the same thing he knows about collective blame and the next day writes complete nonsense about the prime minister and puts in his mouth an utterance that he did not make—what can one think about him? Naturally, the government has the duty to inform the citizens about what it is doing so that citizens could check its activities. But this information and communcation must be based on mutual trust. If my personal level of trust is reduced as far as many journalists are concerned, then this is influenced by their attitude prior to the elections. I know what they did with me and what they did not. Now the elections are over. Elections campaigns are over. But other campaigns are going on. How should I react to it? We are not in for any campaigns. We do not supress democracy. But the level of tolerance is being filled. Why, it is not possible to continue in the attacks at the members of the government, attacks which are not to the point, attacks which are mostly personal. Take, for example, the case of Mr. Slobodnik. How much time it took to find out that he had nothing to do with the fascists, but it got into the world first. We can mention other members of the government who are being taken into question—Sobona and others. [passage omitted]

The freedom of the journalist is not absolute freedom. He cannot do everything. His rights and freedoms end where he infringes upon the rights and freedoms of other citizens whose freedoms are guaranteed by the constitution just as his freedoms are. This borderline, unfortunately, is not seen by some journalists in Slovakia. So every relationship has two sides. I want to respect journalists, but only good journalists, those journalists who I can trust with my words and about whom I know that the words will be heard and that they will not be distorted.

Party Leaders Comment on Parliament Meeting

LD1511171992 Prague CSTK in English 1655 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 15 (CSTK)—Vladimir Meciar, chairman of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and Slovak premier, does not think yesterday's meeting of leaders of parties and movements represented in parliament made it easier for a bill on ending the federation to be passed in the Czechoslovak parliament. Political will lacks, Meciar said.

Jan Kalvoda, chairman of the Czech government coalition Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA), said participants in the three-hour debate agreed that parliamentary groups in the Czech and Slovak parliaments will discuss a draft resolution recommending to the federal parliament to discuss a constitutional law on terminating the Czechoslovak Federation.

According to Peter Weiss, chairman of the second strongest party in Slovakia Democratic Left Party (SDL), the draft resolution will be approved by the republic parliaments at the same time. Weiss blamed some Czech politicians for the parliament's failure to pass the bill on ending the federation. He said that these politicians impede the passage of the bill by hinting that there could be only one successor republic after Czechoslovakia splits in January 1993 and political parties thus fear to express themselves on the bill.

Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) Chairman Jiri Svoboda said that the government parties rejected any compromise with the opposition. They only seek to ensure that the bill on ending the federation is passed by the parliament. The Chairman of the opposition Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party (CSSD), Jiri Horak, said the meeting was useless.

Czech Parliament Chairman Milan Uhde said the draft resolution recommending to the federal parliament to discuss the bill on terminating the Federation will be debated in the Czech parliament on Tuesday [17 November]. Yesterday's meeting was to find a way of dividing the republic in case the federal parliament will be unable to pass the bill. The transfer of federal parliament deputies into the republic parliaments was also to be discussed, but as participants in the meeting said the meeting produced no results in this respect.

All parliamentary parties, with the exception of Miroslav Sladek's opposition Assembly for the Republic-Czechoslovak Republican Party (SPR-RSC) and Jan Krycer's Self-Governing Democracy Movement-Society for Moravia and Silesia (HSD-SMS), participated in the meeting.

Havel Holds News Conference in Slovakia

LD1511184992 Prague CSTK in English 1820 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 15 (CSTK)—I have always expressed myself on public affairs and can't see any reason why I shouldn't do so now, former Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel told journalists here today, explaining his political activities in recent days. Havel arrived in Slovakia yesterday to attend the mourning ceremony for Czechoslovak politician Alexander Dubcek.

According to the Slovak news agency (TK SR), in the course of his two-day visit to Slovakia Havel met a number of Czechoslovak and foreign politicians and held separate talks with representatives of the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) and Democratic Left Party (SDL) Chairman Peter Weiss (SDL is the second strongest party in Slovakia). Havel also attended a symposium on history and politics held at Casta-Papiernicka near here. He said he wished to meet Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar but failed because Meciar was too busy.

Havel described it as a mistake that Czech voice was not heard at Dubcek's funeral. Politics should have also a spiritual dimension ...and a human face, he said. Havel said he regards an agreement between the Czech and Slovak parliaments on the division of the state as a sufficiently legitimate way of ending the federation. However, it would be better if the agreement were approved in the federal parliament.

The agreements currently concluded between the Czech and Slovak Republics Havel considers a minimum that can be done now. I believe special relations will always exist between the Czech and Slovak Republics, he added.

According to him, it is not true that Czechoslovakia is splitting out of the will of the two strongest parties - the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS). The June parliamentary elections expressed the will of the Slovak nation to be independent as parties, which had Slovakia's independence in their election programmes received an absolute majority of votes in the Slovak parliament. In the evening Havel leaves for Budapest to have a dinner with Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, and tomorrow he is to meet for talks with Hungarian Premier Jozsef Antall.

More on News Conference

LD1511213992 Prague CSTK in English 2040 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] At the press conference in Bratislava today Havel also said in the coming days he wants to clearly express himself on his possible running for the post of Czech president.

Said Havel: I think a president should have a firm, logical, meaningful and integrating position in a constitutional system and space for his own political decisions. It is my opinion, which has nothing to do with whether or not I want to be or will be the Czech president.

On his talks with Hungarian officials who invited him for a visit to Budapest, Havel said the talks will be informal. Concerning the controversial hydroelectric project on the Danube, Havel said he is not authorised to act as mediator in the Gabcikovo case.

Authorities Struggle With Land Restitution Claims

AU1111214692 Prague CSTK in English 1942 GMT 2 Nov 92

[Text] Prague, Nov 2 (CSTK)— Czech Minister of Agriculture Josef Lux today said one of the reasons why the restitution of land to former owners in the Czech Republic is not going on as expected is the failure of geodesy offices to handle the large number of applications for deeds from the real estate register.

During his meetings with farmers in Kromeriz, South Moravia, Lux said the geodesy offices in the Czech Republic are currently handling 160,000 such applications, 28,000 of them have been settled, but their number is expected to rise to 200,000 by year's end.

Lux said subsidies to agriculture next year are to amount to 6,500 million crowns (about 232 million USD [U.S. dollars]), and 3,500 million crowns (125 million USD) will be earmarked to the Market Regulation Fund to cover state purchases of wheat, milk, beef, and sugar.

We are seeking ways of avoiding a complicated procedure in subsidies, which must not be applied in general. Responsibility must be assumed by regional institutions and banks so that the subsidies may be used economically, Lux said. He added that for the time being the state must protect the domestic agricultural market, just as is being done in other countries.

Meanwhile, at a press conference in Prague, chairman of the opposition Liberal Social Union (LSU) Frantisek

Trnka criticized a draft law on fines of up to 100,000 crowns (3,500 USD) to be imposed on farming cooperatives which fail to return property to former owners.

Trnka was reacting to Saturday's [31 October] statement by Czech Deputy Minister of Agriculture Vlastimil Tlusty, who said that farming cooperatives that continue to keep what does not belong to them will not be registered.

According to Trnka these practices are aimed at intimidating current officials in the cooperatives. He said most cooperative farmers are in favor of maintaining the cooperatives, though the authors of the law on the transformation of cooperatives thought the law would mean their end.

While world agriculture follows the path of large scale production, we try to destroy it instead of changing it, Trnka said.

Land Return Penalties Opposed

AU1311131692 Prague CSTK in English 1750 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Prague, Nov 11 (CSTK)—The Liberal Social Union (LSU) will not back a draft law on penalties to be imposed on farming cooperatives, which fail to return property to former owners when it is discussed in the Czech National Council (parliament), LSU Chairman Frantisek Trnka told journalists today.

He said the LSU is convinced the approval of the draft would be tantamount to complete liquidation of agriculture in the country. The bill, aimed at speeding up the handling of applications for the restitution of the land, expropriated during the forced collectivization of farming in the 1950's, was initiated by the Christian Democratic Party (KDS) at the beginning of November. Some 200,000 such applications are being currently handled in the Czech Republic.

Trnka said he does not see any reason why the head of a farming cooperative or a state farm should bear the risk of paying a penalty for not giving away some property. This is a return of the 1950's in our agriculture, Trnka said, adding that the only difference is that in the 1950's the communists knew what they wanted to create (by the collectivization of farmland - ed.) but now it is not clear who will work in the abandoned fields. Trnka said the bill was initiated by KDS agricultural experts with only one aim—to destroy farming enterprises that still exist.

Last week, Trnka said the bill is aimed at intimidating current leaders in the cooperatives. He said most cooperative farmers are in favor of maintaining the cooperatives, though the authors of the law on the transformation of cooperatives into ones of real owners thought the law would cause their end. While world agriculture follows the path of large scale production, we try to destroy it instead of changing it, Trnka said November 2.

Slovak ODS Will Become Independent of Czech ODS

AU1211194192 Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech 9 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by "(van)": "The Slovak Civic Democratic Party—Independently"]

[Text] Prague—The delegates to the 3rd Congress of the Civic Democratic Party [ODS], which took place in Prague on 7 November, adopted a resolution by which the ODS in Slovakia will be constituted as a independent political entity—in view of the expected changes in constitutional arrangements. The Congress's agenda will end with an ODS meeting in Zilina on 28 November 1992, in which delegates from Slovak regional associations will take part. As ensues from the adopted resolution, the Executive Committees of both newly established entities will sign an agreement on mutual cooperation in the political sphere. The Slovak ODS will use the existing ODS emblems.

Slovakia's Meciar Upholds Rights of Parties

LD1211054992 Prague CSTK in English 2118 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Bratislava, Nov 11 (CSTK)—The right of political parties to hold bilateral discussions, form coalitions, conclude agreements and act according to democratic principles is not in doubt, Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar told the Slovak news agency TK SR and the Slovak daily PRAVDA today.

The interview was in response to current activities of the Democratic Left Party (SDL), the second strongest party in Slovakia, which held meetings with parliamentary and nonparliamentary parties at the beginning of November.

Meciar said that speculation that the SDL could guarantee social peace is troubling, as the unions guarantee it, and neither the SDL nor the HZDS [Movement for a Democratic Slovakia] can claim this role. He added, however, that he believes there are good prospects for future relations with the SDL.

Concerning criticism of the government because of social, economic and legislative questions, Meciar said that the SDL carries at least half the blame for the current situation. He noted that Slovak National Council Deputy Chairman Peter Weiss (SDL), who is responsible for the legislative area, has received several proposals from the Slovak Government, but has not responded to them.

Meciar said that the SDL's position in the present situation in the Federal Assembly is unacceptable, because the SDL wants to invalidate the results of the election in the Slovak Republic. He said that the SDL came out with an initiative, without consulting the HZDS, to incorporate the deputies from the Federal Assembly into the present Slovak Parliament after the dissolution of the Federal Assembly on January 1, 1993.

This move is unacceptable to the HZDS, he said, because it would destroy the relationship of political powers determined by the election.

The HZDS's compromise proposal for the creation of a second chamber of parliament was not accepted by the SDL, which instead called for early elections, Meciar said, adding that this would mean a six-month delay of all economic and social resolutions, thus worsening the entire situation.

If the SDL thinks that the time is ripe for other development of political powers, it is deceiving itself, he said. Meciar said that the SDL's campaigning is due to the consistent progress made by the government in the question of the division of the property belonging to the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, where so far more than 200 million crowns (7.3 million USD [U.S. dollars]) has been discovered missing. If the SDL (former Communists—ed.) is clean and distances itself from these property schemes, then I don't know what it is afraid of, he said.

Meciar said that he does not agree with the view that consultation between parties, particularly between the HZDS and the SDL, is insufficient, and added that discussions between the HZDS and the other political parties will take place in the near future.

Meciar said that he considers the agreement, concluded among opposition party deputies in the Federal Assembly at their meeting in Brno on Monday [9 November], to iniciate a referendum on the constitutional arrangement of Czechoslovakia to be nonsensical. These parties have clearly declared that it is already impossible to stop the mechanism to dissolve the federation, he said, and added that he assumes that it is an attempt to prevent the ODS [Civic Democratic Party] from gaining a position of absolute dominance on the Czech political scene.

Labor Ministry Cites Slovak Unemployment Figures

AU1211145892 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 10 Nov 92 p 3

[CSTK report: "Unemployment in the Slovak Republic"]

[Text] The number of job seekers dropped by 5,403 in Slovakia in October. This is that CSTK was told by Jozef Svoiik, press secretary of the Slovak Republic Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Family. On 31 October, the Employment Offices enlisted 260,714 job seekers, which represents 10.4 percent unemployment. Compared with the data on 30 September, this means a 0.22 percent drop. Unemployment benefits are collected by 86,000 people. In October, 32,651 school graduates from various types of schools were without jobs. Various employers are reporting 16,232 open positions.

Sustainability of Common Currency Questioned

AU1211211292 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 9 Nov 92 p 7

[Interview with Czech Minister of Finance Ivan Kocarnik by Branislav Janik; place and date not given: "Tax Reform in Both Republics Simultaneously"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Janik] What would happen if the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic did not launch the tax reform simultaneously on 1 January 1993?

[Kocarnik] There would be a disparity in the price levels, which would lead to speculative movements of capital and confusion among investors. [passage omitted] This could also jeopardize the common currency. From the viewpoint of the customs union, the existence of two different systems of taxation would not be such an insurmountable problem. [passage omitted]

[Janik] You say that if Slovakia did not launch the tax reform on 1 January, the same as the Czech Republic, the common currency could be jeopardized. Is it possible to say how long the common currency will last?

[Kocarnik] Every date is mere speculation, in my opinion. The sustainability of the common currency will depend on the development of the two economies, on how the Slovak and Czech national banks coordinate monetary policy, and on fiscal policy in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic.

[Janik] You are thinking of the two republics' budgets. In the Czech Republic it is being argued that while your budget will be balanced, or will show only a slight deficit, the Slovak budget anticipates a deficit in advance....

[Kocarnik] Under the conditions of a single currency, it is not possible for one republic to have a budget deficit if the other republic has none. One republic's budget deficit would immediately generate inflationary pressures and affect also the other republic through the medium of the common currency. We intend to draft the budget of the Czech Republic as a balanced one and trust that the same effort is also in Slovakia.

[Janik] What would you regard as a signal that the currency must be separated?

[Kocarnik] This will happen if the budget deficit of one of the two sides exceeds 10 percent of budget revenues, if foreign exchange reserves drop below the level of the monthly value of imports in convertible currencies, if the extent of speculative movement of capital exceeds 5 percent of total bank deposits, or if no agreement is reached in the Monetary Committee on fundamental questions of monetary policy. As a matter of fact, we have already agreed with the Slovak side on this.

[Janik] How many of these four points will suffice to divide the currency?

[Kocarnik] One would be enough.

[Janik] One of the assignments of the Monetary Committee is to secure the soundness of the common currency. As far as I know, it will be composed on the parity principle. Will it be functional?

[Kocarnik] The adoption of the variant of parity representation was not motivated by economic considerations. The Monetary Committee will have to come to an agreement. If no agreement is reached on questions of principle, the stage of common currency will come to an end.

Court To Decide in Arms Export Dispute

AU1111135992 Prague CSTK in English 2031 GMT 6 Nov 92

[Text] Prague, Nov 6 (CSTK)—The Federal Government will ask Czechoslovakia's Constitutional Court to rule on whether the republics, which constitute the Czechoslovak Federation have the right to issue their own arms export licenses, according to Federal Minister of Finance Jan Klak.

Klak was referring to the dispute which erupted this week between the Slovak Republic and the Federal Government, when it was discovered that Slovakia's Economics Ministry had issued a license allowing the export of OT-65 armored transport vehicles to Sudan. Federal Premier Jan Strasky had charged Slovakia on Thursday [5 November] with violating the terms of the law on power-sharing between the republics and the federation, by not consulting beforehand over the matter with the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The government does not feel competent to judge whether the power-sharing was violated, said Klak.

Slovak Economics Minister Ludovit Cernak said the armored OT-65 transport vehicle which was delivered to Sudan last Sunday had not been bought by the Slovak Government, but came directly from the Federal Army. Since the Federal Ministry of Defense oversees the Army, I would suppose the Federal Government was informed (of the sale), said Cernak today on Slovak Radio.

He added that the vehicle was transported on a special aircraft, for which only the Federal Ministry of Defense can issue flight orders. Cernak said he had been empowered by the Slovak Government to name a commission to issue licenses for the export of special equipment. He said the commission had the right, while accepting international regulations on the export of special equipment, to also issue licenses.

Cernak said the granting of the export license to Sudan had been the commission's first act. He added, however, that the sale of arms overstock was considered good business the world over, as otherwise one was faced with problems on what to do with it.

[Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 7 November on pages 1 and 2 carries a 700-word Branislav Janik report on the Federal Government's debate on the delivery of an OT-65 to Sudan. The report includes the following passage on the background of the transaction: "Minister of Defense Imrich Andrejcak explained the whole case. The armored vehicle was an OT-65 of Hungarian manufacture. It was exported by the UNIMPEX company to Khartoum as a trial sample, to assist in possible additional sales. The export license was issued by a commission operating under the Slovak Ministry of Economy. The customs clearance was done in Trencin. The Customs Administration in Bratislava checked the pertinent Slovak Government resolution that permits the export and, according to the minister, everything was done legally from this viewpoint. Because only a military AN-12 aircraft is capable of such transport, the minister authorized its use after checking that the appropriate contract has been concluded." According to the minister of defense, the vehicle in question is one of 710 OT's that have been taken out of service and UNIMPEX has purchased it from the CSFR Army "in a normal way."]

Division of Czechoslovak Military Under Way

AU1311140492 Prague CSTK in English 1939 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Prague, Nov 9 (CSTK)—The division of the Czechoslovak Army equipment is now in full swing and is mainly based on the 2:1 ratio in the favor of the Czech Republic, writes the Czech daily RUDE PRAVO today. The daily cites figures it has obtained from the public relations department of the Czechoslovak Defense Ministry. The statistics concerning the military manpower and major hardware apply to October 31.

There were 163,922 persons serving in the Czechoslovak military on that date. Of these, 3,131 served either directly at the ministry or in positions directly supporting the high command. Another 65,493 soldiers served in infantry and 27,737 in antiaircraft forces. The Czechoslovak Air Force employed 19,517 persons the landlocked Czechoslovakia, of course, has no navy. The aforementioned fighting forces are supported by 31,356 soldiers who perform tasks such as supply, repairs, communications, research, construction, military education, and others.

There is also a 7,090-member railroad defense task force, 7,591 soldiers are assigned to civil defense functions and 3,007 soldiers guard installations of special importance.

According to the Czechoslovak Defense Minister Imrich Andrejcak, quoted by the daily, all enlisted personnel should be transferred to their native republic by December 16. The move is entirely optional any soldier can refuse a transfer. Currently, there are 2,580 Czech officers and high ranking NCO's (ensigns) serving in the Slovak Republic and 8,685 enlisted men and women of Slovak nationality serving in the Czech Republic. Any of

these soldiers has a freedom of choice, it is only up to them whether they join the Czech or the Slovak Army by the end of the year.

As of last August 17 the Czechoslovak Army operated 3,208 tanks, 4,487 armored carriers, 3,304 field guns, 440 attack aircraft, and 56 attack helicopters. However, an insignificant number of tanks, guns and carriers were set aside for research purposes.

Czechoslovakia has joined the Conventional Forces in Europe Reduction Treaty, signed in Paris in November a year ago, which obligates it to reduce military hardware by 1995. By then, the Czech and Slovak Armies must reduce the aggregate number of tanks to 1,435, of armored carriers to 2,050, of field guns to 1,150, of attack planes to 345 and attack helicopters to 75, more than the present amount. But all surplus equipment is already stored in special facilities where it would await destruction and thus does not have to be shifted between the republics.

At the end of October, the Czechoslovak Army kept the allotted 1,435 tanks (815 of the Russian-designed T-72's or T-72K's, and also 620 updated Russian-designed T-54's/55's). It also has 2,050 armored carriers and 1,168 various guns, rocket launchers, and mine throwers. The Air Force kept 163 MiG-21's, 64 MiG-23's, 20 MiG-29's, 57 SU-22's, 38 SU-25's, 50 L-29's Czechoslovak-made jet trainers, 57 L-39's advanced trainers, two AN-12's transports, and six each of AN-24's and AN-26's as well as one AN-30, YAK-40, TU-134 and IL-18FG, two TU- 154's and 27 Czechoslovak-made L-410's. The helicopter air park consists of 51 Russian-designed MI-2's, 28 MI-8's, 50 MI-17's and 56 MI-24's.

The surplus equipment will be cut down for scrap, according to Major General Oldrich Barak, head of the army's Armament and Technologies Department. Barak told RUDE PRAVO that the process would be done in three stages. The first one was already launched and would last for another year. During this time 442 surplus tanks, 609 armored carriers, 554 guns and 22 aircraft will be destroyed and most of the work is assigned to an army repair depot in Novy Jicin, north Moravia, Barak added.

Goncz, Havel on Importance of Visegrad Relations

LD1611131492 Budapest MTI in English 1229 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Budapest, November 16 (MTI)—"Hungary is seeking the best possible relations with the two newly independent states of Czechoslovakia. Relations between Budapest and Prague are not burdened by any disputes," Hungarian President Arpad Goncz said in a meeting with former Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel in parliament on Monday [16 November]. Havel is presently on a private visit to Budapest.

The discussion was a follow-up to the friendly conversation lasting almost four hours that Goncz and Havel began during a gala dinner on the previous evening. The Monday talks concerned the activities of the Visegrad group. Havel expressed the view that the Czech-Polish-Hungarian-Slovak cooperation scheme was of great importance, and that the free trade agreement would already be signed separately by Bohemia and Slovakia. Goncz and Havel had identical approaches to other foreign policy issues as well. Goncz encouraged Havel to regularly meet the "continuous and permanent invitation" he has to Budapest.

Germany To Supply Army With Component Parts

LD1611142592 Budapest MTI in English 1401 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Budapest, November 16 (MTI)—Germany is ready to provide the Hungarian Army with component parts from the stocks of the former East German Army, it was announced at noon on Monday [16 November], after talks in the Hungarian Defence Ministry between political State Secretary Erno Raffay and his German colleague Bernd Wilz.

Wilz, who arrived in Budapest on Sunday for an official visit, told MTI that despite its restrained policy towards supplying arms, Germany understands that the Hungarian Army needs the parts to maintain its functioning. Asked whether the deal would be for cash, the German state secretary stressed: Bonn is very much obliged to Hungary for receiving the ex-East German refugees and later releasing them to Germany. In so doing, Budapest contributed to German reunification, therefore Germany now intends to help the Hungarian Army to solve its problems. During the talks cooperation between the two countries' armies, mainly in the fields of training and environmental protection was also touched upon. Raffay said that next year 13 Hungarian officers can study in German military academies, and 4-6 interpreter-officers will be trained.

Wilz is also scheduled to meet Defence Minister Lajos Fur, Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky and International Economic Relations Minister Bela Kadar.

Committee To Start Investigations at Danube

AU1511200992 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 6 Nov 92 p 1

[Interview with Janos Martonyi, state secretary at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "The London Agreement on Bos Also Applies to Slovakia"]

[Text] On 4 November, the CSFR Government approved the minutes of the Hungarian-CSFR talks in London and the schedule worked out for settling the debate on the issues of the Bos power station. However, does Slovakia also accept the agreement as binding, including all of its points—especially the one on taking the debate to The Hague International Court? We interviewed Janos Martonyi on this issue.

[Martonyi] I start from the premise that, in certain areas, Slovakia wants to inherit the rights and obligations of the Federal Republic. Slovakia will obviously have the issues of Bos and Nagymaros. If this were not so, then it would not inherit the obligations or the rights; therefore, I do not suppose that the Slovak intent is different from this. Regardless of this, we will establish legal assurances that will make it indisputable that the contents of the agreement also apply to Slovakia.

[NEPSZABADSAG] When can we expect to be informed on the report of the tripartite factfinding committee?

[Martonyi] We are still waiting for the letter of the Brussels committee. Especially because, according to our information, the five-member expert committee mentioned in the second and third points will soon begin their work. We are waiting to be informed on when this is to begin.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What is the further schedule in theory?

[Martonyi] Starting the work of the five-member committee is an urgent task. Certain questions have to be examined, including the possibility and cost of removing and dismantling the equipment. It is also to examine the immediate effects from, among other things, the aspect of environmental protection. All of these are very important and urgent matters considering the fact that the amount of water in the old Danube is not increasing, although according to the obligation accepted by the CSFR side, the usual amount of water is forwarded by them which cannot be less than 95 percent.

[NEPSZABADSAG] How can the Slovak side be stopped from possibly stalling for time?

[Martonyi] The committee is beginning its work within a few days and there is no danger of stalling for time. The agreement sets a 15-day deadline to complete the work and, following this, the committee's recommendations for urgent measures will be submitted to the three sides.

Minister Welcomes EC Role in Bos Controversy

AU1611084392 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 9 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Environmental Protection Minister Sandor K. Keresztes by Lajos Pietsch; place and date not given: "We Must Find a Joint Solution to the Bos Issue"]

[Text] MAGYAR NEMZET asked Environmental Protection Minister Sandor K. Keresztes to evaluate the recent EC letter calling for a halt to the construction of the power plant project at Bos and to consider possible solutions to this increasingly serious crisis.

[Pietsch] How do you evaluate the recent letter sent by the EC committee, including its appeal to halt the construction of the Bos power plant on 21 November?

[Keresztes] The fact that the CSFR Federal Government approved the London protocol a few days ago and agreed to make a joint appearance at the International Court in The Hague makes me both glad and satisfied. This will enable us to settle the existing controversial legal and financial issues there. However, we must be aware that the court will not be able to solve the problem and it will not smooth over the differences of views. Therefore, I regard the other decision as very important, namely that the EC set a deadline for halting construction. This will enable us, hopefully, to begin genuine talks on finding concrete solutions to this problem. So far, the CSFR side has refused to halt construction and this has been an obstacle to talks. I think that, if the experts' two week efforts achieve results, and there are chances of results despite differences in views among various experts, this will justify some kind of position in Brussels. If a decision is made on further delaying construction of the Bos project, a new and expanded team of experts could begin work, something we had already discussed previously. This time, the experts would look into the possibility of solving the problem, rather than merely taking a position on the type of power station in question. I am convinced that this activity will be only really successful with the participation of the EC. However, I must also add that both the Slovak and the Hungarian sides are forced to do this because it is impossible to solve the problem by unilateral planning or unilateral construction.

[Pietsch] The EC committee set a deadline for halting construction, namely 21 November. Is this enough time for the Slovak side to carry out its considerable construction work under the so-called pretext of preserving the foundations?

[Keresztes] According to various reports, and also to the information provided by Julius Binder, head of the construction project, the work to conclude the Bos project has been halted. There is proof of this. I hope they will not start this work again, but will really carry out the necessary repairs, like the repair of some of the flood gates that do not close properly, including works connected with the supply of a 95 percent flow of water, as promised because, under the current technological parameters, this flow cannot be guaranteed. I think the current decision mainly applies to these works in the two weeks until the deadline. It became clear from the protocol formulated by the first committee of experts that the builders used a lot of temporary construction solutions, and it is necessary to correct these solutions in order to be able to guarantee the promised amount of water in the transitional period.

[Pietsch] Both the content of the EC letter and the note connected with the International Court in The Hague represent a positive sign. Will the Slovaks be partners in all this?

[Keresztes] There are both legal and political aspects here. I think that, regarding legal succession, such a decision binds the Slovak Government, just like any other contract. However, there is also a political aspect here, something that, in my view, is at least as important as the legal one: If Slovakia is really striving to be part of the European integration and really to become a European state, it cannot disregard the fact that it must find European forms for solving this conflict, and must also make use of the opportunity given by the EC in this area. If Slovakia does not make use of all this, in my view, it will have negative political consequences that a sober and responsible government cannot afford.

[Pietsch] In your view, how serious is the environmental damage so far?

[Keresztes] There is extremely serious and irreparable environmental damage, mainly destruction of fish and young fish. The forests in the flood area are also in great danger. In order to reduce this danger, it is essential to carry out water compensation in the coming two or three months, and about the same time is available to find a solution to avoid the considerable decrease in the level of ground water. The experts are clearly of the opinion that the decrease in the level of ground water after 100 days can only be restored with difficulty and over a long time.

[Pietsch] What do you hope for? What could the solution be?

[Keresztes] I am sure that both the International Court in The Hague and the body of experts will clearly show that the original project is not good. It logically follows from this that the C-version is even worse than the original project. Thus, we cannot expect the acceptance of this version either legally or politically. I think that there are enough arguments in favor of starting genuine negotiations between the two sides, negotiations leading to a common solution. It is obviously difficult to predict this common solution, and I would not like to describe concrete solutions here. Our job is to firmly determine the ecological criteria that any common solution must fulfill.

Martonyi, EC Officials Hold Talks

LD1311083892 Budapest MTI in English 1028 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Brussels, November 12 (MTI)—Hungary's comments on recent developments of the Gabcikovo controversy are included in Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's letter [given] to EC Commission Vice-President Frans Andriessen by Foreign Affairs State Secretary Janos Martonyi on Wednesday [11 November].

Martonyi travelled to Brussels to hold talks with the EC director-general in charge of external relations Horst Krenzler and director in charge of East-Central European affairs Pablo Benavides on the Gabcikovo hydropower plant problem and on EC-Hungarian ties, with particular emphasis on the agenda of an upcoming EC summit in Edinburgh. Speaking to MTI after the talks, Martonyi said he had thanked the EC for its mediation in the Gabcikovo affair. He also noted Slovakia's continuing violation of international law, which has been aggravated by a new infringement, since Slovakia has failed to redirect 95 per cent of the Danube's former water volume to Hungary, as stipulated by the London agreement. In committing the violation, Slovakia has caused serious ecological damage to the affected Danube region. Martonyi confirmed that Hungary insists on seeking redress for Slovakia's violation of diverting the Danube mainstream and, thereby, changing the border. [passage omitted]

Jeszenszky Views Chances of 'Little Entente'

AU1311171792 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 7 Nov 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Geza Jeszenszky by Hanna Szalay; place and date not given: "Little Entente: A Temporary Interest Union"]

[Text] A Little Entente-type attempt cannot have much of a chance in the shadow of the Visegrad group, the foreign minister says, because the old Little Entente was only a diplomatic grouping, while today's cooperation includes the economy and elite connections. The solidarity of the European democracies with Hungary is another assurance against the threat, plus the fact that such an attempt would not have support from any of the great powers.

[Szalay] Is it possible to resurrect the Little Entente in the current European and international situation?

[Jeszenszky] Hardly. It cannot exist in its present form as a monstrous threat in people's mind. First of all, the Czech Lands, Slovenia, and Croatia would not participate in a potential little entente. Second, there is Ukraine with whom we have good relations and which is wedged between Romania and Slovakia. Third, it is not fashionable to establish power groups, especially not alliances in today's Europe. In other words, this can only be imagined as a temporary interest union at the most. I say temporary because intolerant politics and the style that we unfortunately can witness in a number of cases but which is impossible in Western Europe, does not have a lasting future in democratic Europe.

[Szalay] However, Slovak Prime Minister Meciar concretely suggested a potential little entente, without actually uttering the word....

[Jeszenszky] In fact, they partially announced it.

[Szalay] It was in the semi-official newspaper of the Romanian presidential office. If this event is unlikely, then how should we interpret these suggestions?

[Jeszenszky] There is some ranting of empty phrases in this and some show of power for domestic consumption. Perhaps, they also want to frighten Hungary. However, we have no reason to be afraid of this. I would not say that these are private actions because it is certain that this attitude has a broad basis; however, I do not think that this will prevail in society. The old Little Entente did not include economic cooperation or cooperation between the elite—it was only a diplomatic grouping characteristic of the era. Today, however, international cooperation is characterized precisely by free trade associations and closer links between the elite intelligentsia. The Visegrad group is one of these. Slovakia, being part of the CSFR, is still a member of it and it is assumed that it will remain a member after the separation. In the shadow of the Visegrad group, a little entente-type counter attempt cannot have much chance.

[Szalay] What is France's role right now? Considering that it encouraged it at the time....

[Jeszenszky] Strictly speaking, France did not have the clear organizational and cohesive role that is attributed to it by the general view. However, France and other countries did support it temporarily. There is no such great power at the moment that would establish it. The solidarity of the European democracies and the authority and intimate relationship that link Hungary to the West are guarantees for this. An anti-Hungarian campaign, just as a propaganda campaign, has the opposite effect abroad.

[Szalay] Can it be a talk of the devil in the case of the little entente because Western Europe has a unified voice nowadays and its member states do not conduct politics against each other on the "peripheries"?

[Jeszenszky] Yes. Naturally, the Western countries also have differences of opinion and interest, but these do not appear as open debates or confrontations except in very specific issues at most. The little entente as an attitude and style has simply gone out of fashion. I am not saying that it cannot return but it is unlikely in Western Europe, and this must also have an effect on Central Europe, especially if the solidarity that I constantly urge during negotiations with my Western partners prevails.

Officials See Positive Trends in Army Discipline

AU1011172992 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 6 Nov 92 p 11

[Interview with Erno Hauber, head of the Disciplinary Subcommittee of the Legal and Disciplinary Department of the General Staff; Zoltan Bekesi, head of the Auxiliary Department of the Army General Staff; and Laszlo Mezei, deputy head of a main department at the Military Chief Prosecutor's Office, by Karoly Freesz; place and date not given: "We Do Not Want More Cases Like the Torokbalint Case"]

[Excerpts] A few years ago, the discipline situation in the Hungarian Army was still one of the taboo issues. One could read a very little about this subject and only in professional journals in limited editions, and actual cases of accidents, military crimes, and disciplinary violations were made public only occasionally. This situation has changed today. Hardly a week passes today without news of "extraordinary cases" in the army. We asked three experts, Erno Hauber, Zoltan Bekesi, and Laszlo Mezei about the causes, the disciplinary trends in the army, and the possibilities of preventing the violation of disciplinary rules in the army.

[Freesz] Is discipline in the Hungarian Army really deteriorating, or is it just that existing disciplinary cases are receiving greater publicity today?

[Hauber] There is some truth in both interpretations. It is a fact that, in the past, cases of serious violation of the rules were not made public, and it is also true that discipline in the Hungarian Army showed a deteriorating trend at the end of the 1980's, particularly in 1989 and 1990. The problem here was not only the increase in the number of cases, but the seriousness of violations: The number of serious disciplinary cases and crimes increased, and disciplinary cases involving military service and the attitude toward subordinates characterized these crimes. [passage omitted]

[Freesz] Mr. Prosecutor! Do the statistics reflect this deterioration in discipline?

[Mezei] Indeed, the number of cases that made it to the Military Prosecutor's Office increased dramatically in 1990, but this rate of increase dropped in 1991, and almost all the figures have dropped again in this year's statistics. We dealt with 2,258 civil and military crimes in 1991, and this number stands at 1,244 for the first three quarters of 1992. There were 1,298 military crimes in 1991, and only 631 such cases by the end of September 1992. There were 189 cases of abuse in 1991, and only 104 such cases so far this year. There were 59 cases of abuse committed against subordinates in 1991, and only 25 such cases this year. There were seven cases of suicide connected with military service in 1991, and there have also been seven such cases so far this year. Of course, we are not yet at the end of this year, but the trends show a considerable improvement in all areas.

[Freesz] How does the conscripts' readiness for military service affect the soldiers' discipline?

[Bekesi] All in all, we have no reason to complain because the conscripts are generally carrying out their tasks honestly. Most of the conscripts are between 18 and 20 years of age, and 93 percent are unmarried. It is worth mentioning that 36 percent of the conscripts this year were unemployed. One quarter of the conscripts had finished their basic education, and only 1 percent have diplomas. Some four or five percent of the new conscripts have already broken the law. It is another matter that the number of people unsuitable for military service is increasing continuously: Some 26 percent of the new soldiers inducted in the first half of 1992 were such people. [passage omitted]

[Freesz] Is the disciplinary situation of the professional staff better than that of regular conscripts?

[Hauber] The officers' punishment indicator increased by 0.5 percent, and that of warrant officers increased by 2.5 percent in 1991. There was an increase in the number of punishments for failure to fulfill the duties of an officer. However, all this shows our stricter requirements, rather than any deterioration in discipline. [passage omitted]

[Freesz] A lot has already been written about the inhuman conditions of military punishment camps. What is the disciplinary situation at the only penal battalion of the Hungarian Army in Nagyatad?

[Mezei] The Military Prosecutor's Office in Kaposvar regularly supervises the penal battalion in Nagyatad, where there are far fewer violation cases than previously. There is a good professional staff there today, and there are relatively few criminal soldiers there too. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Expects NATO Membership Soon

LD1311152892 Warsaw PAP in English 2306 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Washington, Nov. 12—The Americans accepted Poland's idea of cooperation with NATO and entirely admitted the possibility of broadening NATO membership after a certain period of time, though not necessarily after Poland joins the EC, commented Poland's Defence Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz at a press conference held in Washington on Wednesday [11 November] evening, adding that NATO membership could in fact occur "much sooner" for Poland than membership in the EC.

Onyszkiewicz, who on Thursday visited NORAD (North American Strategic Air Defence) headquarters and an air force base in Colorado, summed up his discussions with U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Cheney, Presidential National Security Advisor General Brent Scowcroft and State Department representatives at the press conference.

Minister Onyszkiewicz said that the Polish evaluation of dangers in Central and Eastern Europe is in line with that of NATO. Above all, Poland is threatened by non-military dangers such as environmental degradation, migrations and economic crisis, but the threat of military attack cannot be entirely ruled out either said Onyszkiewicz, adding that all these dangers stem from "an eventual change in the situation beyond Poland's eastern border".

Even the "blackest scenarios" such as the escalation of conflict in the former Soviet republics to match that occurring in "Lebanon or Yugoslavia" cannot be dismissed. Such a scenario would of course send waves of refugees into Poland and possibly even spill-over of the conflict within Poland.

Onyszkiewicz remarked that Poland would require international help if the inflow of refugees resulting from such conflict would prove extensive.

Accompanying Onyszkiewicz at the Washington talks was Head of the Polish National Security Bureau in the president's chancellery Jerzy Milewski and Deputy Minister of National Defence in charge of Defence Policy Przemyslaw Grudzinski.

Onyszkiewicz noted that the creation of an effective air defence system is very significant for Poland. In particular Poland requires an "ours-theirs" automatic identification system in order to be capable of effectively monitoring its air space, and up to NATO surveillance standards. The minister termed this a "costly" proposition.

When asked about the possibility of Poland purchasing American made weapons, chiefly the F-16 fighter aircraft, Onyszkiewicz said that a Polish-American working group will speak about such matters "more concretely" during meetings to be held in Poland on December 9.

However, the Polish minister said that the Polish Defence Ministry's budget cannot cover the costs of the state of the art F-18 fighter within the next two years. Onyszkiewicz added that the question of Polish arms purchases demands more time and study and that the Polish Armed Forces intend to buy weapons largely from domestic manufacturers.

The Americans raised the question of Polish armaments exports and are conscious of the fact that Poland needs new markets for its weapons industry. They advised Poland to keep in mind the human rights records of prospective clients.

The broadening of Polish participation in U.N. peace keeping missions is unlikely largely due to lack of means. Poland has not as of yet received the compensation promised by Saudi Arabia for the medical aid it provided in the Persian Gulf during the Desert Storm operation.

Onyszkiewicz also confirmed that no mention was made during his visit on the topic of the exchange of intelligence information. He added, however, that the already existing and further developing system of Polish-American political consultation "includes a certain degree of information exchange". On Tuesday for example, American representatives asked about Poland's opinion of the situation in the east, in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

When asked how the new Clinton administration in Washington is likely to regard Central and Eastern European matters after taking office in the new year, Onyszkiewicz said American policy toward the region has always been of a national, not a party nature and that he expects it to remain so.

Suchocka: Regionalization Can Cause Destabilization

LD1411205292 Warsaw PAP in English 2020 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Poznan, Nov. 14—According to Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka it is the wrong time to "create regions in the manner that some powerful centres have imagined". Suchocka expressed this opinion when being questioned on the topic of regionalization during her meeting with the "GAZETA POZNANSKA" editorial staff on Saturday [14 November].

"I can say this in an even stronger fashion when looking from the viewpoint of the entire country", stressed Suchocka. If we begin regionalization, then unfortunately we are well on the road to destabilization". In the opinion of the countries which are evaluating what is happening in Central Europe, we are currently regarded as a stable country. When we begin this type of process we will get onto the same path that other nations are on", said Suchocka.

The prime minister went on to say that the regionalization process must be undertaken with great caution and that Poland should gain political and economic stability before it dwells on the question of how to create regions.

Suchocka also visited the office of the "GLOS WIELKOPOLSKI", another major Poznan newspaper. This type of meeting with the media has become a popular way for politicians to raise topical questions. All former premiers: Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, Jan Olszewski and Waldemar Pawlak have participated in such events previously.

Government Not Involved in Coalition Talks

LD1311185892 Warsaw PAP in English 1600 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Warsaw, Nov. 13—The Polish government is not engaged at present in talks on the broadening of the ruling coalition, minister for relations of the government with the parliament and political parties Jerzy Kaminski said on Friday [13 November].

The minister emphasized that the broadening of the coalition is of supreme importance and pointed to parties having their roots in Solidarity as most suitable to be included in the coalition. He noted, however, that "there are serious doubts about it after recent pronouncements by leaders of the Centre Alliance (PC) and the Movement for the Republic of Poland (RDR)."

Commenting on former defence minister Jan Parys' statement that termed the Hanna Suchocka cabinet as "the government of harm and poverty," Kaminski remarked that besides critical opinions about the government and advocating decommunization which is supposed to heal all Poland's problems Parys failed to present any programme, particularly in relation to the economy.

Asked for his evaluation of government-parliament relations, Kaminski said that they are beginning to normalize. He said that cooperation with parliamentary floor groups of the coalition parties is very good.

Kaminski announced that close contacts with parliamentary opposition groupings are to be established in the coming two weeks. He noted that so far only the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) has reacted positively to his invitation for closer cooperation.

General Staff Chief on Reform, Personnel Vetting

AU1411214592 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 9 Nov 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Division General Tadeusz Wilecki, head of the Polish Army General Staff, by Zbigniew Lentowicz; place and date not given: "Our Hands Are Clean"]

[Excerpt] [Lentowicz] A lot has been happening in the military recently. A start had been made on reforming Ministry of National Defense structures and on destroying equipment in line with the Vienna decisions. A few days ago, a preliminary agreement was signed with the Stalowa Wola plant on the production of a new personnel carrier for the military and it was given the appropriate propaganda treatment. The National Defense Committee has approved the directions of state defense policy. However, if one looks closely at the document, which some have called the Republic of Poland defense doctrine, it is difficult not to get the impression that we are preserving the Army in its current form. No far-reaching moves have been announced and finances are still in a poor state. What is the reaction of the military lobby?

[Wilecki] I do not see there being a military lobby on the Polish political scene. That does not mean that it would be a bad thing if such a lobby really did appear. We also get the impression that it is increasingly widely held in society that there is a need to maintain the Armed Forces, to modernize them, and that universal military service is necessary. If we want to sleep peacefully, then we must all contribute to our own security.

It is not true that we are preserving the old Army. We are taking a pragmatic approach to reform: We are examining defense reliability and the effectiveness of current structures. We have already eliminated those that are not essential or we are changing their functions. We also want to act rationally above all. I assure you that what is going on now are not just cosmetic changes.

[Lentowicz] Some spectacular appointments of generals are being prepared—I am not just thinking of the numbers, but also of the persons in some cases. On Monday, seven generals will be appointed to a higher rank, twenty-two colonels (including one from the Ministry of Internal Affairs) will put on generals' insignia. At the same time, the Sejm has not completed work on laws intended to lead to vetting and decommunization among personnel. So, are these promotions not somewhat premature?

[Wilecki] Our consciences and hands are clean—we have always served the fatherland and been loyal to our oath. I see no justification today for politicians applying a principle of collective responsibility, for placing us in an ambiguous position, and undermining our credibility.

I view the senior personnel of the Ministry of National Defense—and I include myself among them—from a professional angle. One has to have many years of service to become a general. Over that period, an officer's skills, his ability to lead large groups of people, and, above all, his loyalty toward Poland are assessed many times.

I have complete confidence in the people that I have promoted, I have met them many times at exercises and practice ranges. I think that to label them in an ambiguous way is a great injustice to them. Besides the same ambiguity can be applied to the majority of adult Poles, with the advocates of decommunization at the forefront.

It would be a tragedy for the entire state if the Army were to be destabilized in the current complex international situation. I believe that reason, not a dogmatic approach to vetting, will triumph.

[Lentowicz] How do you view Colonel Kuklinski's actions then?

[Wilecki] Ex-Colonel Kuklinski swore an oath that he later broke. [passage omitted]

Deputies Call for Referendum on Abortion

AU1211093392 Warsaw PAP in English 1919 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Warsaw, Nov. 7—A group of 120 deputies forwarded a draft resolution to the speaker of the Sejm (lower house), calling for a referendum on abortion.

The deputies argued that the draft law banning abortion supported by the majority of the extraordinary commission working on the bill will inevitably lead to the elimination of prenatal tests and to a ban on the use of contraceptives in Poland.

In the opinion of the 120 deputies such a shape of the law would stand in contradiction to the expectations of the majority of society.

A similar proposal was rejected by the Sejm last July. According to an April poll by the CBOS Public Opinion Polling Centre, over 80 per cent of Poles favour abortion in those cases when pregnancy endangers the mother's health or results from a crime.

The latest initiative is yet another stage in a two-year battle between right-wing deputies grouped around the Christian National Union (ZChN) and backed by the Roman Catholic Church and those favouring a more liberal law in this respect.

Abortions are still legal in Poland under the 1956 legislation but most doctors started to refuse to perform them after a new doctors ethics code took effect last May. The code threatens to deprive doctors of their license if they perform abortions. This made abortions more expensive and caused the mushrooming of "abortion tourism."

Polish Ombudsman Professor Tadeusz Zielinski on Saturday [7 November] said he plans to ask the Constitutional Tribunal to say what will happen if a doctor acts against the code of ethics but in tune with the 1956 law on abortion.

Zielinski told a meeting of the main board of the Association of Polish Lawyers that his task is to protect the rights of all citizens. He stressed that he strongly rejects the view that regulations not in line with the assumptions of the new political system are not effective. "I am a strict legalist," he declared.

Last October, the Tribunal, pressed by the ombudsman who argued that the doctors'code is in contradiction to the existing law, took a cautious stand on the code by saying that it was competent to judge only on legal regulations and not ethical norms. It did however decide to tell the Sejm that after the passing of the code certain aspects of the law on medical chambers are now in conflict with the laws on abortion, the medical profession, and the penal code.

Politicians Differ on Solidarity Revolution Effects

AU1311190292 Warsaw PAP in English 1928 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Krynica, Nov. 7—The revolution led by Solidarity has changed Poland beyond recognition and, unlike all the previous revolutions, has done it without causing mass suffering or claiming victims, said Jozef Slisz, deputy speaker of the Senate, in his opening address to a seminar entitled "Poland Three Years After the Solidarity Revolution." The seminar opened in Krynica, southern Poland, on Saturday [7 November] and is attended by leading Polish politicians.

Wojciech Arkuszewski of Solidarity said that after three years of Solidarity-led governments, a large part of Polish society, above all Solidarity members, have reasons for disappointment since the reforms now under way in Poland have negatively affected the interests of those people.

Former Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki stressed the achievements of the three years, such as the return to the rule of law, observance of human rights, return to private ownership, and regaining by Poland of a due position in the world.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski of the Centre Alliance said that the solidarity revolution was still under way because the social transformations in Poland had not ended yet.

Leszek Moczulski, the leader of the Confederation for an Independent Poland, said that the recent years saw the implementation of his party's central concept, namely the revolution without a revolution in Poland.

Former finance vice-minister in the Mazowiecki Government, Marek Dabrowski of the Democratic Union (UD) said that shortages had been definitely eliminated and a balanced and, to some extent, demonopolised market had been created. "The economy has opened itself to foreign partners, the private sector has developed," he stated. However, he added that the most distressing phenomena were ballooning budget deficit and growing pressures on its increasing, exerted by various lobbies.

The seminar ends on Sunday.

Prime Minister-Designate on Government Program

AU1411151692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0900 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 14/11/1992—The government's short-term priority is the ensurance of normal conditions for the winter 1992-93, by enforcing measures involving directly all commercial companies, government institutions and local authorities in catering basic food, fuels, electric power and heating for the population and the necessary energy resources for the normal operation of economic and social units.

To make this approach possible, supplementary energy imports will be required, especially crude, gas and fuel oil, for which a $160-$180 million per month quota will be apportioned. The government will see that the entire energy programme is achieved in tune with the specific weather conditions of the coming winter, and will scrutinize, every week, the trajectory of the internal production and the imports of primary energy carriers.

The deficit of cereal production has caused great difficulties in the catering of bakery products, which required imports. At the moment, the internal wheat production and the imported quantities cover the population's bread requirements until early January 1993. Considering the situation, the government will speed up negotiations for the purchase of additional quantities of wheat from the stocks with the Romanian private producers and through new import contracts.

The government will also encourage the growth of the areas sown with wheat, which, although at 1.9 million hectares are double the 1991 area, are yet much below the planned 2.5 million hectares for 1992. If such conditions can be put in place like expanding wheat-sown areas in favourable weather conditions, improving crop maintenance with more chemical fertilizers and pest killers and incentive-stimulated deliveries to the state reserves, it can be hoped that starting with the autumn 1993 wheat imports become unnecessary.

The internal 1992 oil seed (sunflower and soybean) output will permit increased supplies of edible oil for public consumption. Great deficits however of sugar, milk and butter are creating problems for their regular delivery. This will make it necessary for the entire production circuit to be re-analysed to its last link, which is retail sales, and for emergency import quotas to be estimated.

To avoid further deterioration of livestock and the fall of animal produce the government envisioned a range of measures to stimulate animal breeding, including the importation of grain fodder and protein feeds, vitamins and products for veterinary use. It goes without saying that, whatever the case may be, imports will be approved only where internal resources, upon minute analysis, fail to cover current requirements, so as to forestall spending of hard currency for daily needs.

The government will pay utmost attention over the period to follow to the social impact of the leu's devaluation and subsidies partial cuts. Knowing that these two policies will determine in November and early December 1992 a price rise for most commodities, including basic goods, the government will directly supervise through its Finance Ministry the price negotiations, in progress at the moment, for staple goods for which there is no real market competition or are short on it.

Concurrently, the government will strictly evaluate the influence of price rises upon the employees' real incomes and will consequently advise, starting November 1992, for a new wage indexation, with higher coefficients for disfavoured segments. The government will act to this effect in a spirit of total transparency, revealing for the population the real situation and the mode of action to secure social protection.

Considering the effects of price and tariff changes, the government will present to parliament a draft law for the amendment of the state budget for 1992.

More on Vacaroiu's Program

AU1311180892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1516 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 13/11/1992—Reading the short-term government program in parliament, Premier Designate Nicolae Vacaroiu underscored that his prime target was "getting through the winter in normal conditions" from the point of view of energy and food supplies, and that this would entail energy imports worth about $150-$160 million a month.

He made it known that the country's wheat reserves would last until the month of January 1993, and that new imports would be made concurrently with purchases from the domestic producers. A number of sensitive sectors will be under direct supervision of the Finance Ministry.

The premier designate also mentioned his intention to rectify the state budget for 1993 in order to include the above mentioned targets and, on the other hand, to provide for a higher level of the resources available for social protection. The state subsidies for various basic commodities will be eliminated starting May 1993 but with a concurrent granting of pay compensations and other measures to protect the consumers, especially those with low incomes. The premier informed that the measures stipulated in the program were "mainly based on the FDSN [Democratic National Salvation Front] program" but also on the consideration of urgent needs. After underscoring that "the reform is irreversible," Mr. Vacaroiu said his program was concerned with the costs of transition to a market economy, with social life insofar as it was hit by the transition and with Romania's image in the world.

The program "starts from that which profoundly characterizes the country's social-economic state," comprising short-term and medium-term measures, and that a program covering the whole governing period would be drafted later.

The premier considers that 1993 "will be a difficult year but an essential one in the implementation of reform measures," and that the difficulties the reform is faced with are due to the effects of doing away with the old centralized economic structures without replacing them with market economy structures yet.

Some of the measures the premier mentioned as being aimed at changing the current realities in economy and social life are:

—Strengthening the role of the state in leading the process of transition to the market economy;

—Quick privatization of certain sectors like tourism and commerce;

—Intensifying the distribution of property vouchers in agriculture;

—Encouraging foreign investment;

—Controlling the prices-salaries ratio;

—Introducing the value added tax as of January 1, 1993;

—Introducing the tax on global income for physical persons;

—Gradual decrease of interest rates;

—Measures to create new jobs for those who are now unemployed and for those who will be sent away as a result of restructuring in industry;

—The premier also informed that he intended to consolidate the advisory council for the problems of national minorities, through legal corrections included.

Mr. Vacaroiu declared he regarded the trade unions as an important partner for the government and that he relied on them to achieve his targets. The premier designate stated that the prime target of Romania's foreign policy should be supporting economic reform and by that he meant mainly the relations with the West, aimed at European integration.

A special status in Romania's foreign policy would be held by the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Vacaroiu said, and it is expected to achieve a synchronization with that part of the Romanian territory in various fields, in parallel with the promotion of good relationships with all neighbors, with the states of the Black Sea area, as well as to intensify links with the Romanian diaspora in order to benefit from its capacity to contribute to Romania's progress.

Other targets of the short-term government program are related to the Army's modernization, the creation of an integrated conception of the country's security and the promotion of a favorable external image.

Gherman, Nastase Discuss Program

AU1311175492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Report on interview with Oliviu Gherman, president of the Romanian Senate and with Adrian Nastase, president of the Assembly of Deputies, by Ioan David on the program presented to parliament by Prime Minister-designate Nicolae Vacaroiu]

[Text] In an interview granted to our reporter Ioan David, Mr. Oliviu Gherman, president of the Romanian Senate, discussed the program that Prime Minister-designate Nicolae Vacaroiu presented to the Senate today, 13 November.

Mr. Oliviu Gherman stated that the government program of the Democratic National Salvation Front [FDSN] is a program drafted for a longer period and noted that the program presented by the prime minister designate focused mainly on the immediate tasks resulting from the current economic realities and from the need to overcome current difficulties.

Mr. Oliviu Gherman said that the initial FDSN program is very close to the program presented today, and expressed his hope that it will be adopted by Parliament as the government program for the coming months.

The president of the Assembly of Deputies, Mr. Adrian Nastase also granted an interview to Ioan David. Asked whether the draft laws registered with the Assembly of Deputies are similar to the content of the presented government program, the president of the Assembly of Deputies, Mr. Adrian Nastase, said that currently an attempt is being made to find out which draft laws can be discussed to establish the priorities of the Assembly of Deputies. He also talked about establishing priorities in the examining of the reports of the Parliamentary Commissions after they have been received.

Vacaroiu Seen as Advocate of Gradual Reform

AU1611131692 Bucharest DIMINEATA in Romanian 10 Nov 92 p 3

[Article by Ionel Dumitru: "Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu—Incompatible With the Reform?!"]

[Text] Just a few hours after the proposal made by Mr. Ion Iliescu, the former director of the Romanian Privatization Agency, Mr. Adrian Severin, described Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu as being incompatible with the reform. Why this verdict? In October 1990, when the price liberalization process began, Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, who held the position of deputy minister at the Ministry of Economy, opposed shock reform and emphasized that this process has to take place gradually over a period of three years.

Why is it that Nicolae Vacaroiu was proposed for the position of prime minister? After 27 September 1992, incipient efforts were made to form a government of

national unity headed by an independent prime minister. The experience of the Stolojan government was appealing. The fact that the opposition did not cooperate by requesting ministerial key positions and the presidency of the two chambers of parliament, dismantled the "playing cards castle" of such a government. The proposal of technocrats that was supported by the political parties did not succeed either. The political pact proposed by the FDSN [Democratic National Salvation Front] whereby the opposition is given the presidency of the Assembly of Deputies and of certain commissions, as well as positions in government was also rejected. The solution that was reached was a government supported by the FDSN and headed by an independent. Naturally, this does not rule out that the prime minister, who has been validated by parliament, may decide to form a government with the representatives of other parties.

Despite Mr. Severin's statement, what has to be borne in mind is that Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu has not and does not only consistently advocate the reform, but also pursues the aspirations of the many. He advocates the continuation of the reform at a bearable rate with special stress placed on ensuring social protection—a desire that is in compliance with two of the major coordinates of the platform program of the party that won the elections.

In order to forestall any biased interpretations, the prime minister designate specified: "I am a man for the reform." He promised to seek a government formula that will take the country out of this impasse. And maybe then the opposition will understand that we are not living in two countries—one of the FDSN and the other of the CDR [Democratic Convention of Romania] and FSN [National Salvation Front]—but in a single country in which all of us wish for a better tomorrow.

Vacaroiu Discusses Current State of Economy

AU1311202692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1903 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 13/11/1992—Reading on November 13 before parliament, the Governing Programme for the period spanning 1992-96 Premier- designate Nicolae Vacaroiu referred to the current state of the Romanian economy and said:

In the past two and a half years the Romanian society knew deep-going economic and social changes; economic reform measures virtually extended to all areas of activity and the option for a market economy met with general consensus, asserting itself as irreversible.

At the same time, the complex, novel process of transition to a market economy was strewn with serious difficulties and hardships, something that all East European countries encountered and Romania all the more so as the paralyzing effects of a hypercentralized system of management and of the structural disbalance inherited from the former regime were very strong.

A stepped-up removal of the old structures of the command economy, which were not replaced by the new institutions and mechanisms of the market economy, an insufficient correlation of the steps taken in various sectors and areas of activity, an inadequate adaptation of economic agents to the conditions of the market, the temporary disruption of economic flows, the failure to withstand the pressure of salary claims devoid of an economic support, the deterioration of work discipline, the effects of the rapid devaluation of the leu, and unfavorable external circumstances are but a few of the factors owing to which the positive effects of the reform could not be felt in the real economy, which further sharpened crisis phenomena in Romania.

In this framework, prime emphasis should be placed on the fact that the decline in production was sharp and that it continues. According to estimations, gross internal product this year will be more than 16 per cent lower than in 1991, accounting for less than 67 per cent of the level registered in 1989.

In the first nine months of the ongoing year industrial production dropped 23.5 per cent as to that of the same period in 1991 which, in its turn, was 41 per cent below 1989 achievements; the most substantial negative rates of industrial production were registered in sectors that are large imported raw materials and energy consumers, as well as in those that are closely linked to investment and export activities, where demand diminished sharply.

In agriculture, this year's production is lower than in 1989 by roughly 60 per cent in the case of wheat and rye, some 18 per cent in the case of maize, 61 per cent in the case of sugar beet and more than 37 per cent in the case of potatoes; the livestock decreased substantially and so did productions in the animal breeding sector. All this had unfavorable effects on the creation of the state stock and on the population's supply with agroalimentary products.

The economic and financial activity of economic agents is seriously marked by the reemergence of the financial blockage. As that blockage revived immobilization in stocks increased; the fact is noteworthy that at the end of September immobilization in stocks of finished products accounted for more than 463 billion lei, as to 260 billion lei early the year.

The drop in production and in its efficiency parameters and the marked devaluation of the national currency entailed strong inflationist processes. As to October 1990 the wholesale prices were roughly 11.2 times higher in June this year and the population's consumption prices were 9.4 times higher in September this year. In the first nine months of the ongoing year the rate of inflation ranged from 19.5 per cent in January to 3.2 in July, especially as an effect of the subsidies granted for the population's consumption; in September this year the inflation rate stood at 10.1 per cent.

In conditions in which prices were liberalized and inflationist phenomena were apparent solutions to protect

the population's incomes were identified through dialogue with trade unions and employers. Eight salary indexations and compensations were granted from November 1, 1990 to date so that the minimal net nominal salary per month rose from 2,000 to 10,721 lei and the average net nominal salary went up from 3,414 to 23,306 lei; at the same time, compensations and indexations were applied to all categories of incomes.

After a number of improvements in 1990 the population's standard of living worsened. The average real salary in September was 27.7 per cent lower than in October 1990 and the average real pension was 26.5 per cent lower. In the first nine months of the ongoing year retail sales dropped 9.3 per cent and commercial services for the population decreased 7.3 per cent as to the same period in 1991 in comparable price conditions.

The difficulties encountered in making production units operate at capacity, a restricted investment activity and the elimination of redundant labor from a number of sectors entailed a rapid growth in the number of people looking for a job, especially in the past one and a half years; late in October this year the number of unemployed persons reached 940 thousand or so, which accounts for 8.5 per cent of the civil active population, and I also referring the job-seeking ones not only to those who benefit unemployment relief.

The drop in the offer of Romanian exportables as a result of the diminution of industrial production, the collapse of some of our traditional outlets and the unfavorable world economic climate led to a sensible reduction of Romania's external economic relations.

In 1991 as compared with 1989 the volume of export dropped roughly 45 per cent and imports decreased 18 per cent or so. Despite the difficulties of the first nine months of the ongoing year exports in convertible currency increased 25.9 per cent as to the same period last year and imports remained on the same level; the relevant balance of trade continued to register a deficit (roughly $560 million in the first nine months). The fact is noteworthy than over July-September the convertible-currency balance of trade had a surplus worth more than $100 million.

Romania's external public debt on September 30, 1992 was of $3.8 billion (including credits endorsed but unused), of which 76 per cent represent credits contracted directly by the state and 24 per cent credits contracted by economic agents and guaranteed by the state. The fact should be stressed that of the credits contracted by the state, worth $2.9 billion, 91 per cent were allotted to the current consumption of the economy and of the population and only 9 per cent to development.

The government, the major political groupings, research units in higher education and experts in various areas of activity conducted numerous analyses on the evolution of the romanian economy after 1989; there is a great variety of opinions today as concerns the lines to which attention should be given to put an end to the crisis and ensure economic recovery.

The new government is determined to go deeper into these analyses, to impart to them a systematic and complex character so as to substantiate a detailed governing programme for the immediately following period and for the four years to come. We believe that through dialogue with political parties, with trade unions and with the support of parliament action can be concerted to employ the real potential of the Romanian society so as to overcome the serious hardships of transition.

UN Commander Urges Serbs To Halt Violations

AU1311215192 Paris AFP in English 2052 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Excerpts] BELGRADE, Nov 13 (AFP)—The Bosnia-Hercegovina cease-fire fell apart Friday [13 November] amid condemnation from U.N. peacekeeping forces, as Bosnian Serbs appealed to Yugoslavia for Federal Army intervention to protect their territorial gains. [passage omitted]

In Sarajevo meanwhile, General Philippe Morillon, commander of the U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, condemned late Friday the "flagrant violation" of Wednesday's ceasefire.

In a statement from his headquarters in the western Sarajevo suburb of Kiseljac, Morillon said the most serious breaches were "occuring at this moment around the town of Maglaj, in central Bosnia-Hercegovina, where Serbian troops, both tanks and infantry, supported by heavy artillery have been attacking the town since 10:30 a.m. this morning.

"Bosnia-Hercegovina command strongly condemns these violations, especially the flagrant violation currently being perpetrated by Serb forces at Maglaj," said the statement, which accused the Serbs of trying to seize the town.

He urged the Serbian leadership to "immediately halt the assault, which, whether the result of error or disobedience casts a slur on the intentions professed at the signature of the ceasefire document," he concluded.

A detachment of British blue berets were at Maglaj and had witnessed the fierce fighting, said Morillon's spokesman Marine Colonel Barry Frewer. [passage omitted]

Serbian Colonel Novica Gusic told the Belgrade-based TANJUG news agency that Nevesinje, near Mostar in the south, would not fall, adding that if it did Trebinje, north of Dubrovnik, and all of eastern Hercegovina would go with it. [passage omitted]

Karadzic Says Croatia Violating Cease-Fire

LD1311145292 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1308 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Nov (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, has stated in an interview with the SRNA news agency that Croatia, by its repeated violations of the cease-fire agreement in Hercegovina, has been trying to put pressure on the United Nations to adopt a "new anti-Serbian resolution."

Karadzic stressed that the Serbian side will consistently observe the cease-fire agreement, but if threatened it will "retaliate with all means at its disposal."

The Bosnian Serb leader said that the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina has shown that an agreement reached between the FRY and the Republic of Croatia was "a dead letter."

Croatia has proved to be an unreliable negotiator, which can very seriously threaten future negotiations and open perspectives for a large-scale war between the Serbs and the Croats, that is, between Yugoslavia and Croatia, Karadzic said.

Karadzic called on the international community to intervene urgently by putting equal pressure on Croatia and by threatening to impose sanctions against it. "The policy pursued hitherto of exerting unilateral pressures has led to the escalation of conflicts", he said.

Stressing that Croatia has been bringing in reinforcements to Hercegovina, Karadzic said that the people in this area must defend themselves. "It is a duty of the entire people of the the Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and even of Yugoslavia, Serbia, and Montenegro", he declared.

The Serbian Republic president said that the Serbian side has been maintaining intensive contacts with Cyrus Vance, cochairman of the Geneva conference, and that it has been preparing documents which are important for the conference.

These documents include a proposal in connection with the constitutional agreement for a future Bosnia-Hercegovina, and a letter which the Serbian side intends to send to the new U.S. Administration informing it about developments on the territory of the Serbian Republic.

Sarajevo 'Quieter' After Earlier Fighting

AU1611095492 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Report by Jovo Jovanovic]

[Text] After last night, which was marked by increased aggression by the enemy, particularly in the Novi Grad area, this morning has been considerably quieter in Sarajevo. Of course, the situation is far from being safe, but the general situation in the town could be described as such.

According to information we received before the newscast, the aggressor still is sporadically firing light arms on the Stari Grad periphery and in the area above Skenderija. Enemy snipers are active around Pero Kosoric Square. They have been shooting from around the Shopping department store on Ozrenska Street since early this morning. Chetniks also are occasionally firing light arms at our defense lines in Vogosca. Other parts of Sarajevo—including Novo Sarajevo, Novi Grad, Dobrinja, and Stup—are completely quiet.

Capital Endures 'Fiercer Fighting'

AU1511152392

[Editorial Report] Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo- Croatian at 1400 GMT on 15 November carries within its regular 20- minute newscasts several reports on the war situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

According to Sarajevo correspondent Risto Djogo, "the convoy with some 500 children, mothers, and generally weak people that was supposed to leave for Belgrade today had not left from the railroad station car park by 1400. The Muslim side claims that the reason for the delay is the lack of buses. The Croatian side was supposed to provide some 20 buses. The Serbian authorities are ready to do their utmost for the convoy to set off. The only certain thing is that hundreds of Sarajevo residents are waiting in the cold weather at the railroad station for the convoy to finally leave the city of hell.

"Today, there was fiercer fighting in Sarajevo than in the last few days. The Muslim green berets this morning carried out a mortar attack on Nedjarici from the direction of Vojnicko Polje and Alipasino Polje. The Muslim infantry attacked the Serbian villages of Streljiste, Ovcevac, Vidovac, and Orepak in the region of Kievo. Two Serbian fighters were wounded."

Concluding his report, Djogo says "the telephone lines between Pale and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were out of order today."

According to a report read by the announcer, citing Sarajevo radio, "Sarajevo is still without power. The reason for this is a failure on a long distance power line."

According to another report, citing Serbian military sources, "fighting has resumed around Gorazde, where the Muslim forces are regrouping themselves. The Serbian side considers this to be preparation for breaching the encirclement in which the Muslim forces in Gorazde have found themselves."

Reporting from Banja Luka, correspondent Branislav Bozic says that "there is fierce fighting on all points of the front where the units of the First Krajina Corps are located. The corridor through Posavina is open for traffic, but, as a rule, the artillery of the regular Army of the Republic of Croatia—which is deployed in the villages of Gradiste, Rujevo Selo, and Bosnjaci—is opening fire on it every two hours. All these villages are on the territory of Croatia, on the left bank of the Sava River, in the Zupanja commune." Bozic says that "shells are also hitting Doboj today."

According to a report read by an announcer, "the Executive Council of the Banja Luka commune has decided that education in all schools be conducted only through instructions, once a week. The reason for this decision is the lack of heating. It is not known whether or when the Banja Luka heating plant will obtain oil for heating."

Bihac correspondent Radovan Pantovic reports that "the fighting in Bihac and around it has been going for over 72 hours with unchanged intensity. The worst situation is in Grabez, where there was fighting from a short distance last night and today. A similar situation is going on in Pritoka, where strong Muslim forces have been trying for three days to breach the defense line of the Army of the Serbian Republic." Pantovic says that "over 20 Serbian fighters were wounded."

Hercegovina correspondent Jelena Dabarcic says that "there have been no major combat activities on the Hercegovina fronts in the last 30 hours, but armed provocations continue."

Serbs Reportedly Intensifying Attacks

AU1611094792 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] (?Serbian) artillery is attacking the center of Gradacac, the industrial zone, and the defenders' positions. The aggressor is strongly attacking the defense line near [word indistinct] and (?Liporasce). Chetniks also are trying to launch an infantry attack.

The aggressor stepped up his attacks on Bugojno last night with shelling. The positions of our defenders were particular targets of the artillery in Kupres and Gornji Vakuf.

Attacks also increased on the defense lines and civilian facilities in Maglaj. The defenders repelled all attacks and (?pushed) the chetniks to their original positions, even though the aggressor launched several attacks.

The aggressor intensified its attack on and shelling of the Brcko defense lines, but the defenders are vigorously resisting the chetnik forces. The aggressor used long-range guns to attack [words indistinct]. There is fierce infantry fighting all along the front. The Serbian artillery also attacked Catin. The enemy is trying to take Turbe near Travnik. According to Croatian radio, the village of Karaule is surrounded.

Serbs Encircled on Bihac, Grabez Battlefields

LD1411201492 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Defenders are still making progress in the Bihac battlefield. In the wide area of the battlefield, Serb units are completely encircled, while in the Grabez area their complete fiasco is expected. The defense lines keep moving forward and the aggressor's losses are increasingly great. Fierce infantry fighting is in progress in the Lohovska Brda area and in the Grmus-Srbljani plateau.

The center and outskirts of Bihac, as well as the defenders' positions, were today again the target of Serb long-range artillery from Gorjevac and Radic. Two civilians were killed and four wounded by shrapnel.

Yugoslav Troops Reportedly Massing on Border

LD1411133192 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Excerpt] According to information from the Bosnian-Hercegovinan Army reconnaissance units and intelligence services, strong army forces of the so-called Yugoslavia are amassing on the border with Bosnia-Hercegovina. Strong armored and mechanized units are concentrated in several places: around Bajina Basta—the intention here is to make use of a bridge in the Skelani [word indistinct] area and launch an offensive against the free territory of Srebrenica; around Dobrun, in the Lim valley and [words indistinct]. The aim is to open up a new corridor between Rogatica, Sokolac, Olovo, Zavidovici, and Bosnian Krajina. [passage omitted]

Karadzic Appeals to World Leaders for 'Justice'

LD1411114392 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1102 GMT 14 Nov 92

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 14 (TANJUG)—The war in Bosnia-Hercegovina still rages despite the unilateral efforts by the Serb side to establish a cease-fire, the president of the Serb republic in Bosnia, Radovan Karadzic, said in a letter sent on Friday [13 November] to U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, British Prime Minister John Major, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Geneva conference cochairmen Lord David Owen and Cyrus Vance, French President Francois Mitterrand, and U.S. President-elect and outgoing President, Bill Clinton and George Bush respectively.

The Bosnia Serb news agency SRNA quotes Karadzic as saying that the international community could very quickly bring about peace in Bosnia and prevent a largescale regional conflict, but that this can be achieved only through a balanced approach towards the warring sides.

We hope that the U.N. Security Council will reach a decision, based on justice rather than on media pressure, which will contribute to an end of the war, Karadzic said.

"In recent weeks we have contributed significantly in the humanitarian sphere, and we have been the most cooperative side in relations with UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force)", he said.

"We have unilaterally announced several cease-fires. Also, the Serb side did not initiate hostilities and all our military successes have been achieved through counter-offensives against the Muslims and Croats," the leader of the Bosnia Serbs said.

"With the exception of the first day after the adoption of the resolution on a no-fly zone over Bosnia, Serb aircraft never took off, while Croat and other unidentified aircraft are constantly overflying Serb territory," Karadzic said.

He said that "The constant pressure on the Serbs alone cannot contribute to a peace and that pressure "on the Croats and Muslims" by the international community is lacking. [quotation marks as received] Karadzic said that "in Bosnia, Croatia has 38 brigades and a number of smaller units" and that "the Muslims are receiving money, weapons and mercenaries from the Islamic countries."

Once when peace is established, the right to self-determination should be recognized for all constitutive nations in former Yugoslavia, Karadzic said.

UNPROFOR, Serb Commanders Reach Agreements

LD1511175392 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1649 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, 15 Nov (TANJUG)—General Philippe Morillon, UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] commander for Bosnia-Hercegovina, said after talks with General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Serb forces [in Bosnia-Hercegovina], that he and Mladic have the same ambition "to see that peace is established as soon as possible," SRNA has reported.

The two generals met in the Lukavica barracks [in Sarajevo] and agreed that a reconnaissance group from the Canadian battalion, which will be charged with scouting the area around Jajce, Kupres, Grahovo, Glamoc, and Petrovac, should be welcomed in Gradiska.

It was also agreed that a reconnaissance group from the Knin-based French battalion, which will be charged with scouting Bosanski Petrovac, Bihac, and Krupa, will go to the village of Strmica.

Three humanitarian convoys are due to be organized in the next few days: one for Sekovici, Vlasenic, and Milici; one for Bratunac, Skelani, and Srebrenica; and one for Kalinovnik, Miljevina, Gacko, and Nevisinje.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will make the final decision about the convoys and UNPROFOR will assist them in reaching their destinations.

"I am satisfied with this and with a decision by the Serb side to preserve the cease-fire and establish a truce when a political solution is found in Geneva. Politicians are the only ones who can establish peace," General Morillon said, according to SRNA.

General Mladic said that General Morillon undertook an obligation to urge that a meeting between representatives of the Croatian armed forces from the Republic of Croatia be organized, with UNPROFOR help, as soon as possible.

General Mladic added that the Serb side is demanding such a meeting, because it believes that the withdrawal of the Croatian forces from the Orasje area, from central

Bosnia, and from Hercegovina is the main precondition for establishing peace in former Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Serb Leader Expects Foreign Monitoring of Truce

LD1511150692 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1349 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Bileca, 15 Nov (TANJUG)—Nikola Koljevic, a member of the Presidency of the Serb Republic [in Bosnia-Hercegovina], who is visiting Trebinje and Bileca today, said that the reason for his visit to eastern Hercegovina is "the work on strengthening the cease-fire signed by all warring sides."

Koljevic recalled that it was agreed with General Philippe Morillon and Cyrus Vance to work on the strengthening of the cease-fire in cooperation with foreign journalists and UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] observers positioned at all points where the cease-fire is violated, and to condemn those who violate it regardless of which side they are on.

According to Koljevic, objectivity can be achieved precisely thanks to UNPROFOR observers who will today arrive in the area, and will be deployed in the points of clashes between the Serb and Croatian sides.

He said that foreign TV teams "who will inform the world about everything objectively" are expected to help.

Refugee Buses Turned Back From Croatian Border

LD1411170192 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Last night a number of refugees from a Sarajevo convoy were permitted to cross the Croatian border near Imotski on their way to Split. Croatian Radio cites a representative of the Imotski police station who said that the situation is returning to normal. Today some 10 buses transporting refugees from central Bosnia were turned back from the border crossings towards Grude, Posusje, and Tomislavgrad because nobody can enter the Republic of Croatia without a permission of the State Committee for Refugees and without a visa for one of the European countries. Refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina can enter Croatia only as passengers in transit.

Moslems Allow 1,500 Serbs To Leave Sarajevo

LD1311175892 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1437 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Pale, Nov 13 (TANJUG)—Moslem authorities in Sarajevo on Friday [13 November] gave their approval for the evacuation of some 1,500 women, children and old people from the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, TANJUG correspondent reports. The civilians have been waiting for three days at bus and railway stations to leave for Belgrade.

Only residents of Sarajevo's Moslem districts and those whose names were on the lists for the humanitarian convoy were allowed to leave.

However, no agreement was reached until Friday morning on ways to transfer the evacuees from Sarajevo to the territories under Bosnian Serbs' control. It is still unknown whether the refugees will reach the Serb-held territories on foot or if transport will be ensured.

For over seven months, the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina has been locked in inter-ethnic strife in which local Moslems and Croats are pitted against Bosnian Serbs.

So far, 610 refugees from Sarajevo have arrived in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Ljubisa Lucic, a representative of the Red Cross from Pale, the political centre of the Serb Republic in Bosnia-Hercegovina, on Thursday said that the Red Cross had a list of 2,200 Serbs who should be allowed to leave Sarajevo.

Iranian Delegation Calls for Aid for Muslims

LD1411101892 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Mostar, Nov. 14, IRNA—Visiting head of the Iranian delegation to Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) in a message to the Iranian nation called on the people to spare no efforts in sending their donations to the suffering Bosnian nation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Mohammadi Eraqi, who is currently visiting several B-H central cities at the head of a delegation, said 'Here, we are witnessing that an oppressed nation is under the severest military, political, economic and cultural pressures with no reliance except on their Islamic background and hopes to receive assistance from Muslim nations.'

He noted that the Bosnian Muslims have retrieved their Islamic identity after decades of the black dictatorial domination of blasphemy.

The hojjat ol-Eslam lashed out at the West for openly overlooking all their human rights claims and waging a war with the aim to displace and extinguish a nation.

He underlined in his message that the Bosnian Muslims, though faced with severe shortage of food and warm clothes, only demand weapons and military equipments from the Islamic countries.

According to Eraqi, the Bosnian Muslims are proud to say that they learned to love Islam from the Iranian nation.

He noted that a young Bosnian Muslim, Mersad, told him that he had named his daughter 'Iran' to show his love for the Islamic Republic.

Bosnian Croats, too, mostly Catholics and victims of the Serbian crimes, are proud to say that their ancestors have come from Iran, he added.

Tudjman Calls for Summit of European Countries

LD1311183792 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Croatian President Franjo Tudjman sent letters to the presidents, i.e. prime ministers, of Austria, Bavaria, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Italy, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine, in which he invited them for a summit which would review possibilities of improving economic and political cooperation in Central Europe and in the Adriatic-Alps-Danube-Carpathians region. As the president's office announces, the letters stress that such cooperation is necessary, especially in this challenging historic period when the integration in Europe and overall development of international relations indicate that closer interim forms of increased cooperation are being created between the countries in that region.

According to the opinion of Croatian business and political circles, the following is of particular interest for the countries in that region: the construction of lowland railway lines and roads, free industrial and trade zones where sea and land routes meet, the construction of oil and gas pipe-lines, the development of tourism, and projects for the protection of environment, especially through the introduction of ecological plants.

As President Tudjman proposes, the summit should be held in Croatia before the end of this year, a statement says.

Tudjman Receives U.S. Representatives

LD1511223492 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Croatian President Franjo Tudjman this evening received a U.S. delegation, including Arizona's Senator Dennis DeConcini and Congressman Frank McCloskey, and representatives of the CSCE, the U.S. Army, and U.S. diplomats in Zagreb. The high-level guests were informed in detail about the political and economic situation in Croatia and about Croatia's standpoints on resolving the crisis and ending the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Particular attention was paid to the problem of refugees, which has become a burden that the Croatian economy cannot withstand. President Tudjman also spoke of the slow implementation of the Vance plan and measures that should be taken to disarm as quickly as possible Serbian paramilitary formations, to facilitate the return of the displaced, to consolidate communications and other economic links, and to fully establish the constitutional and legal order of Croatia across its entire territory.

Having expressed sympathy for the problems confronting Croatia, the U.S. delegation stressed that it will inform the Congress and the American public about all these difficulties in order to help Croatia as soon and as effectively as possible in resolving its grave problems.

Serbs Ask To Participate in Yugoslav Conference

LD1411194992 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1754 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Nov (TANJUG)—As ISKRA [Krajina news agency] reports, Zdravko Zecevic, prime minister of the Republic of Serbian Krajina [RSK], today sent a letter to Cyrus Vance, a cochairman of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, asking that the RSK be allowed to participate in the work of the conference. "The disintegration of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia influenced the future of the Serbian nation in the RSK, as well as the future of Serbs who remained in towns and some regions of the present-day Republic of Croatia," the letter says.

In Zecevic's opinion, it will not be possible to solve the issue of minorities justly without the participation of RSK representatives. The same holds for the problems of legal heir to the former Yugoslavia and for the issues concerning property and future "balance sheet" of Yugoslavia whose disintegration left a huge amount of Krajina's private and state property in the Republic of Croatia. "Since the newly formed states in Yugoslav territory will make demands concerning minorities and property to the Republic of Serbian Krajina, it is normal that the same requests on the part of Krajina should find their place in the work of the conference," Zecevic's letter to Cyrus Vance says, as carried by ISKRA.

The Krajina prime minister does not see a single good reason why the RSK should be excluded from the work of the conference on the former Yugoslavia.

Serbs Accuse UN Forces of Halting Aid

LD1411021392 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2353 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 13 (TANJUG)—The authorities of the Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK) have accused the U.N. Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) of attempting to impose "backdoor" economic sanctions on the RSK, the Krajina news agency ISKRA said on Friday [13 November].

In a sharp protest note sent to the command of the UNPROFOR Sector South and Cedric Thornberry, the head of the UNPROFOR civilian affairs, the RSK authorities said the "U.N. organs have several times refused to issue a certificate that the RSK is under U.N. sanctions." UNPROFOR has in this way halted the delivery of food, including salt and eating oil, to the Krajina inhabitants, the protest note said.

The U.N. has imposed sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but not the RSK which was proclaimed last year in the predominantly Serb-populated areas within the former administrative borders of the Republic of Croatia. After the war break out due to Croatia's forcible secession from the former Yugoslavia, the RSK was put under U.N. protection and the UNPROFOR troops were deployed there.

The protest note outlined the cases of UNPROFOR controllers at the RSK-Yugoslav border demanding that the goods intended for Krajina bear Croatian stamps. Under the U.N. peace plan, the RSK territory is excluded from Croatia's jurisdiction.

The RSK authorities said UNPROFOR had in this way overstepped its powers, thus adding to the difficult situation in supplying the RSK with basic food.

Croat Troops Reportedly Sent to Hercegovina

LD1311231092 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2228 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Geneva, November 13 (TANJUG)—Leader of Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic accused on Friday [13 November] the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia of sending thousands of troops into Bosnia-Hercegovina and of violating a cease-fire in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In a telephone interview to REUTERS news agency, Karadzic said that on Thursday alone Croatia sent 11,000 troops to the area around the Hercegovina city of Mostar, in southern Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He claimed Croatia had 38 brigades or more than 70,000 men in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Mostar is a city on the Neretva River, which divides Hercegovina into the western part, with a predominantly Croatian population, and the eastern part in which Serbs have been the majority population for centuries.

The Croatian-Moslem forces, with the participation of the regular Croatian Army, have for the sixth day been conducting a strong offensive in the area of eastern Hercegovina in violation of the cease-fire agreement signed on Tuesday. The cease-fire agreement came into effect in the night of November 11-12.

REUTER cited it was not possible to obtain an independent confirmation of Karadzic's claims, but recalled the statement of a unidentified E.C. Mission representative in Zagreb who confirmed this.

'We've had reports of the presence of the regular Croatian Army (in Hercegovina)...since several days ago...or precisely speaking we've had reports of the presence of regular Croatian Army uniforms,' in this region said the E.C. Mission representative.

Karadzic added that the U.N. Security Council, which debated on Bosnia-Hercegovina Friday, should introduce sanctions against Croatia, if it wished an end to the war.

'If the other parties are not treated in the same way as the Serbs then they'll have no motivation to stop the war,' Karadzic said.

He also denied the accusation by Moslem leader in Bosnia-Hercegovina Alija Izetbegovic that the Bosnian Serb forces violated the cease-fire agreement.

'We don't need to violate the ceasefire. We are keeping our territory and waiting for a political solution,' Karadzic said.

Vance Plan Completed in Sector West

LD1311174792 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Excerpt] General Carlo Zabala, commander of Sector West, confirmed at a regular UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] news conference in Zagreb today that in the sector under his command all requirements have been met in connection with the military component of the Vance plan. This means that units of the Croatian and Serb armies have withdrawn, that members of the territorial defense have been disarmed and demobilized, and that the rule according to which the local policemen can carry only side arms is being observed, Zabala said. He added that this has been achieved with the full cooperation of the civilian and military authorities of both sides. [passage omitted]

Refugee Convoys From Bosnia Arrive in Split

LD1411101392 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] A convoy carrying about 500 Sarajevo residents, organized by the Zagreb Jewish municipality, the Sarajevo Jewish community, and the U.S. Jewish organization the Joint Distribution Committee, reached Split at 0700 today. The convoy—transporting about 100 Jews and a number of Croats, Serbs and Muslims—left Sarajevo at noon yesterday. Although the list of passengers was previously approved by all sides, the convoy was stopped at one of the checkpoints on the exit from Sarajevo. However, when Croatian President Franjo Tudjman telephoned Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic the convoy was allowed through to Kiseljak.

Yesterday, at about 1700, six coaches left Kiseljak for Split. They arrived early this morning with the help of the Croatian Defense Council for Herceg-Bosna in the areas under their supervision. Some of the refugees will be accommodated in Split and the others in Makarska and Zagreb.

Federal

Government Says Army To Stay Out of Bosnia

LD1311200892 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1732 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 13 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Army neither has any obligations in Bosnia-Hercegovina nor has it intervened there since that former Yugoslav republic was recognized as an independent and sovereign state—all units of the former Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) pulled out of Bosnia by May 19 this year, the government said in its response to a federal parliamentary deputy's question on what it was doing to protect Serbs living in eastern Hercegovina.

The government said that the Serb Republic in Bosnia-Hercegovina had been formed in the meantime and that it had organized its own military. It follows that only the Serb Republic and its Army are empowered to protect territories populated by Serbs, including eastern Hercegovina, which has for almost a week been under all-out attack by the 163rd, 145th and 146th Brigades of the Croatian Army.

The Serb Army's Hercegovina Corps has thus far been successfully defending the area, the government said. A statement issued on Friday [13 November] by the Yugoslav Army's general staff in response to an appeal by President of the Serb Autonomous Region of Hercegovina Bozidar Vucurevic for the Yugoslav Army to come to the assistance of the Serb people in eastern Hercegovina said that the "response to the appeal appears in a letter President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Dobrica Cosic, as the highest authority in the Yugoslav Army's chain of command, has sent to U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali."

Cosic said in his letter that if the Croatian troops did not withdraw from eastern Hercegovina the Yugoslav Army would take steps to protect the Serb people in eastern Hercegovina and Montenegro.

Minister Backs 'Omnibus Resolution' for Bosnia

AU1511210392 Novi Sad TVNS Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Statement by Yugoslav Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic at the United Nations; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The FRY favors peace. Among other things, it is trying its best to establish peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is of vital interest for all of us in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the FRY, and other countries. Of course, we cannot accomplish this on our own. We are not a party in the war, a party in the conflict, but a neighboring country ready to do everything for peace.

The sanctions are not just; in fact, they are not helping to settle the general crisis and everything else on former Yugoslav territory. Clearly, we will be heard; the effect our comments have on the final outcome, on a resolution that is expected to be adopted, is another question. Participants in the debate do not decide this; the Security Council decides.

Our activities have been directed toward this resolution remaining within its present form, if we cannot stop it. Of course, our demand is that the previous demands from Yugoslavia be moderated and that sanctions be lifted.

I also expect a resolution to be accepted, the so-called Omnibus Resolution dealing with various aspects of the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, including a cease-fire, Bosnia-Hercegovina's constitutional organization, refugees, humanitarian aid, and demands that implementation of the adopted resolution on sanctions be accelerated. This is why we have been doing our best to either prevent it or moderate it. Most probably we cannot prevent it.

Foreign Minister Assesses Trip to New York

AU1411160092 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 14 Nov 92

["Special statement" by Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic on his talks in the United Nations in New York; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The topics that dominated the talks were the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the need to stop the war, armed conflicts, and to finally create a situation in which it would be possible to hold negotiations in peace and reach an agreement on the future of Bosnia-Hercegovina as an independent state that would be recognized by all of us, including the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

We advocated our well-known view, namely that it was necessary that the three constituent nations of the new, the newly emerged state, a former Yugoslav republic, reach an agreement on how they want to live and organize themselves. We will respect whatever they agree on. Of course, we will also recognize them as a neighbor and cooperate with them.

This view has been met with understanding. We are also expected to make further efforts toward the democratization of life in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This topic attracted great attention.

For us, the focal point of the talks were the topics that we are most interested in: the sanctions, our status in the United Nations, and greater understanding for the policy conducted by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. I must say, and I am pleased to be able to say this, that we were received as the representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. There are some disputes over our presence in the United Nations, our continuity as a state, whether we can be the successor of the old state, and so forth, but we were received as such everywhere. I think

that this is important and positive. What is important for us is to have open channels, to be able to communicate, and reach our partners.

Premier Panic to Meet With Krajina Premier

LD1311210792 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1927 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Nov (TANJUG)—ISKRA, the news agency of the Republic of Serbian Krajina [RSK], today reported that "a meeting between Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic and RSK Prime Minister Zdravko Zecevic," who are at the same time the chairmen of the Yugoslav and RSK State Committees for Cooperation with UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force], "is certain."

The meeting, the date of which has not yet been set, "will take place as soon as possible," ISKRA reported, citing representatives of the RSK Government in Belgrade.

ISKRA reported that a working meeting held today between the two secretaries of the State Committees for Cooperation with UNPROFOR—(the secretary of the) Yugoslav (Committee) Mile Pesuta, and of Krajina's (Committee) Srecko Petkovic—"was actually only a preparation for the meeting at a higher level."

The talks between Pesut and Petkovic was, ISKRA notes, the first of such meetings since the committees were formed. The issues of competence, method of work, coordination, and joint action were discussed.

As ISKRA says, it was stressed at the Pesut-Petkovic meeting that "most problems were technical in nature, not essential." The agency did not specify the venue of the working meeting between the two secretaries of the State Committees for Cooperation with UNPROFOR.

Micunovic Says Party Needs Cosic's Support

AU1311182692 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Report by Srdjan Savic]

[Text] At the beginning of one of his regular news conferences, Dragoljub Micunovic, leader of the Democratic Party, said that they were preparing ourselves for elections under very unfavorable conditions. The war in Hercegovina has continued, prompting Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic to warn the United Nations. As regards foreign policy, news is being received from the United States that if the need arises, the Americans will protect the Albanians. Because of all these things, one must show great responsibility to establish peace and stability, indispensable conditions for the forthcoming elections, Micunovic said. The most recent news, he said, was that the other parties have agreed with the republic Government to participate in the elections. Micunovic pointed out that it will be proposed at the party's Main Committee meeting tomorrow that a final positive decision be made regarding participation in the elections.

In reply to the question of what kinds of coalitions are possible, Micunovic said that the Democratic Party advocates a union of democratically oriented parties in Serbia and Montenegro and that the formation of some new coalitions depends on specific moves by President Dobrica Cosic and Prime Minister Milan Panic. We hope that President Cosic will grant his support to us just as we have so far been granting him our support, Micunovic pointed out, speaking about the latest democratic coalition.

However, the most important thing is not who will support us, because creating equal electoral conditions involves solving the greatest problem and that is the clash between the federal state and the Republic of Serbia, Micunovic says. The head of the Democratic Party is of the opinion that it would be good to postpone the date of the elections, but that 20 December is acceptable, so that republican and federal elections would not be held at different times.

At the end of this regular news conference, Micunovic said in reply to a journalist's question that, if need be, he would go to Pristina again to talk with leaders of the ethnic Albanians' national parties and invite them to participate in the early parliamentary elections.

Opposition Calls For Postponement of Elections

LD1411015992 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0009 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 13 (TANJUG)—Representatives of the democratic opposition of Serbia told Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic on Friday [13 November] that early Federal elections should be postponed for two weeks, TANJUG learned from unofficial sources on Friday night. The Federal, republican and local elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are to be held on December 20.

The opposition representatives said the election campaign (which under the law should last not less than 45 days) was considerably shortened due to, as they put it, "slowness of the Federal organs" in preparing early elections, as TANJUG has learned.

Election lists are not accurate, creating conditions for a television campaign on an equal-footing for all was slow as well as forming of election commissions and printing of ballots. [sentence as received]

Government Analyzes Threat of Economic Collapse

LD1311172692 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1255 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, November 13 (TANJUG)—If the economic blockade against Yugoslavia continues until the end of 1993 or even shorter, Yugoslav economy will not be able to sustain its effects, the Yugoslav government said in an analysis of economic trends released on Friday [13 November].

On May 30, the United Nations Security Council imposed economic and political sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia because of its alleged involvement in the war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. A long-term solution to Yugoslavia's economic problems will not be possible to reach if they continue to hide behind inflationary and deficit financing, says the government analysis.

It adds that Yugoslavia's production is falling while expenditure is growing, which results in rampant inflation which undermines the economic unity and financial system in Yugoslavia. Government experts estimate that an average monthly inflation rate will reach 50 percent at the end of the year, which means that retail prices will be 28,000 percent higher this year than they were in 1991.

The money supply in the last three months of this year might rise 173 percent to that in September, which indicates that the legal currency issue will also account for the increase, says the analysis. By the end of the year, the country's overall output is not expected to exceed one half of last year's production, which will be only about one quarter of the 1989 output.

Government experts believe that these negative trends result from the sanctions as much as from the disintegration of the Yugoslav market and general economic inefficiency. The number of unemployed and [word indistinct] employed people and pensioners in Yugoslavia is expected to reach the figure of about three million at the end of the year. The figure does not include over half a million refugees who are currently registered in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The task of securing the means for all these people lies with less than a million employed people, whose earnings are also expected to drop to bare subsistence wages, says the analysis. The government has warned that the country's per capita income has dropped to monthly 70 dollars over the past two months, with public expenditure accounting for over 70 percent and deficit being a large part of it.

In addition to a collapse of the economic and financial systems, a social catastrophe is also looming. Declining production will result in a continual fall of the social minimum, until the border line of the subsistence level has been crossed, says the analysis.

The federal government warns politicians that "all activities which put off the lifting of the blockade to a later period in 1993 mean a delay which will lead to decades of hard work before poverty is overcome."

Government Announces Devaluation of Dinar

LD1411021792 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0030 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, November 13 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government adopted on Friday [13 November] a decision devaluing the national currency—dinar. The middle exchange rate was set at 750 dinars to the dollar, the Federal Information Ministry said on Friday night. The new exchange rate of the dinar would be effective as of November 14, 1992.

All authorized banks, exchange offices, the National Bank of Yugoslavia and all other legal and natural persons must abide by the decision.

The new exchange rate, as set out in the ministry statement, is to secure pursuing policy of a more realistic exchange rate of the dinar and more favorable conditions for serving the foreign currency deposits of individuals. It is also expected to contribute to restoring confidence among the foreign currency depositors for the safety of their deposits. Also, in this way the transformation of the foreign currency deposits into other forms of property was being made possible as well as interest in imports and foreign currency inflow heightened.

In the event a bank fails to exchange currency under the new rate, it will be banned from participating in the inter-banking meetings of the single Yugoslav foreign currency market. It will suffer the consequences in the area of the credit, monetary and foreign currency policies, including the measure of having its authorization for handling exchange and credit operations, payment operations with foreign countries taken away as well as undergoing other punitive measures under the law on foreign currency operations, the statement said.

War Crimes Official Points to Errors in Report

AU1311205092 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Dr. Milan Bulajic, secretary of the State Commission for War Crimes and Crimes of Genocide, has responded to the report on war crimes that had been signed by the Federal Government, and delivered to the United Nations.

The text that we have received states, among other things: as the secretary of the State Commission, I was hesitant about whether to speak out publicly about the serious shortcomings of the Federal Government's report. The overwhelming opinion was that it would be much better if I pointed out the weaknesses, rather than if it came from the other side. Finally, we are talking about our duty toward the victims of war crimes and acts of genocide, the duty to establish the truth, Dr. Bulajic says.

Further on in the text, Dr. Bulajic points out the errors, shortcomings and the imprecise presentation of the documentation to the UN commission of experts. However, according to Bulajic, the biggest shortcoming of the Federal Government's report is the incorrect strategic approach since, as Bulajic says, the rules of the United States' game have been accepted, in which only individual responsibility is to be established. Bulajic warns that, since the Federal Government has taken such an approach, the methods used by the United States and

Helsinki Watch will be deployed. First, it will be proclaimed that all sides in the armed conflict are guilty, but the greatest responsibility will be reserved for the Serbs in 90 percent of the cases.

The task of gathering the documentation on war crimes cannot be the task of just one state commission, and even less so the task of some inter-departmental group. This is a task that has to be dealt with at national and state level. If Yugoslavia is now convicted of being the aggressor, the penalty for that will be paid by our grandchildren's grandchildren.

Bulajic concludes by saying that the essence of the problem is not whether the secretary of the State Commission has been consulted, as the Federal Government's denial insists, but in the quality of the report that has unfortunately been sent to the United Nations without the experts having inspected it first.

Serbia

Premier, Opposition Agree on Media Coverage

LD1311134192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1221 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Nov (TANJUG)—TANJUG has learned that Serbian Prime Minister Radoman Bozovic and representatives of groups of deputies in the republican Assembly held talks today behind closed doors at which an agreement was reached on basic conditions for media coverage of the election campaign.

There will be no party commentaries or similar reports on radio and television. Broadcasting time for each party will be determined according to their participation in election districts. Debates will be arranged between parties and between presidential candidates in front of television cameras.

A demand by the Democratic Movement of Serbia for the cadre changes in radio and television of Serbia has been turned down.

Sandzak Official Fears 'Ethnic Cleansing'

AU1511171092 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 14 Nov 92 p 5

[Report on interview with Zijad Kolovic, spokesman for the Muslim National Council of Sandzak by Edgar Auth; place and date not given: "Fear of Serbian Terrorism"]

[Text] Frightened by a report from Serbian sources that the Muslims in the southern Serbian region of Sandzak recruited 15,000 armed troops, a spokesman for the Muslim National Council in Sandzak has contacted FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU. "We do not even have 15,000 young men altogether," Zijad Kolovic said, thus vigorously rejecting the Serbian information. The report is obviously intended to serve as advance justification for a Serbian attack. Serbian nationalists want to drive away the Muslim majority from Sandzak so that they can have an "ethnically clean" land connection to Montenegro, Kolovic suspected in an interview with FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU reporter Edgar Auth.

According to a public opinion poll carried out by the National Council in 1991, the majority of the population of Sandzak wants political and territorial autonomy. Kolovic is assured that the people have no desire to change the borders. Yet, there is also the demand that Sandzak and neighboring Kosovo are demilitarized. The United Nations should send in UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) blue helmets as quickly as possible to avert yet another war.

Kolovic emphasized that the region neither has the necessary men nor weapons to set up a Muslim force. "Those who have a gun buried it far away from their homes," he said. People are scared of Serbian terrorism.

According to Kolovic, since the beginning of the war in Bosnia, Serbia has transferred 29,000 reservists and heavy arms to Sandzak. Reports by independent correspondents have confirmed that artillery has been brought into positions around the city of Novi Pazar, for example. The Sandzak official lists a number of other places that are also exposed to such threats. The population is brutally harassed by the reservists. A total of 24 cases of murder have already been recorded apart from many injured people and destroyed property. All that can be proved on the basis of films and eye witnesses. Kolovic describes torture methods that go beyond imagination. They recall the most atrocious massacres in the history of the Balkans. Those who have their doubts about such reports suspect that the daily terror might make sheer fear appear as reality.

Kolovic is convinced that the Serbian actions are serving the purpose of "ethnic cleansing." Between May and August 1992 alone, 69,000 people emigrated to Turkey, Germany, or Sweden. On the other hand, almost 20,000 people have fled from Bosnia to Sandzak.

The National Council spokesman said that terrorism is an "old illness" in the region, which is exactly 8,647 square kilometers large, as he said. It is the third Slavic butchery in the past 70 years. According to older Serbian figures, 350,000 of the 500,000 citizens of Sandzak were Muslims. At the moment, about 70 percent belong to this group. However, 10 years ago, the Serbs imposed a ban on registration, which is why current official figures are unavailable. Between 1920 and 1970, 1.5 million inhabitants emigrated to Turkey, while 180,000 meanwhile live in Sarajevo, 150,000 in Kosovo, and 300,000 in Macedonia, all of whom left the poor rural areas. "He who has two cows should live," Kolovic said by way of explaining the standard of living, adding that "we only have the blue sky." Jobs in the industry are reserved for the Serbs.

Since the Turkish-Ottoman rule, Sandzak is regarded as a "bridge" to the Muslims in Bosnia. The majority there regards itself as "part of the Bosnian people," Kolovic

said. One does not necessarily have to call them Muslims. "You may also call us Bogomils," he said, thus referring to another historic term. In 1878, they were territorially and ethnically separated from Bosnia- Hercegovina. Sandzak was autonomous until 1945, when it was divided into two parts, one going to Serbia and the other to Montenegro. Some Serbs have certainly not yet forgotten that inhabitants of Sandzak are said to have collaborated with the German Nazis. Tito managed to preserve peace only "through dictatorial means," Kolovic said. He thinks that now the Serbs are planning to annihilate his people completely or drive them away. Brutal chetniks, the Army, radical Serbian leaders, and the president of the remainder of Yugoslavia, Dobrica Cosic—who is considered a moderate—are in agreement on that. Kolovic is expecting bad news from his home country.

Independent Trade Union 'Deceived'

93BA0164A Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 30 Oct 92 p 14

[Article by G.Dj. and M.I.M.: "The 'Independents' ('Nezavisni') Deceived"]

[Text] Belgrade—The discussion to be held yesterday by the independent [Nezavisni and Samostalni] trade unions of the workers of some 10 metalworking firms in Belgrade with representatives of the republic Government was held, but not with everyone present. Only negotiators of the Samostalni trade unions and directors of those firms were able to enter the room. In this way, Radoman Bozovic, Serbian prime minister, remained consistent with his statement that his government would negotiate exclusively with the Samostalni trade unions.

The Nezavisni, who insisted on entering the room, were told by the doorman: "You were not invited, neither you nor the newsmen, and you have no right to enter." This should also be said: The host of yesterday's negotiations, closed to the public, was Zoran Arandjelovic, republic deputy prime minister. Left in front of the building at No. 11 Nemanjina, the ill-fated negotiators from the Nezavisni metalworkers trade union could only look on bitterly as their counterparts from the Samostalni trade unions went into the negotiations. To all of which Milosav Stanic (from the firm DMB) scathingly remarked: "You see, now they do not even know us!" The bitterness culminated when Aleksandar Pejakovic, president of the Samostalni Metalworkers Trade Union of Serbia, appeared.

"Although we agreed two days ago to negotiate with the government together, which we did in the small auditorium of the Trade Union Center, our counterparts from the Samostalni trade unions paid personal respect to Bozovic. Now it is certain that everything was arranged in a secret meeting that Pejakovic and Tanja Nikolic, president of the Belgrade Metalworkers Trade Union, had last Tuesday with Mr. Arandjelovic. It is obvious that their brains were thoroughly washed in that meeting and they nicely agreed to what they would do," Stanic commented.

Djuro Karanovic soon arrived with the news that Mihajlo Radic, president of the Nezavisni Trade Union of Serbian Metalworkers, had nevertheless "penetrated" the negotiations, "because the director of 'Lola' did not want to enter the room without his entire negotiating team from both trade unions in his firm" (where Radic is employed).

On the stairway leading into the government's building, Milan Nikolic, member of the Executive Board of the Nezavisni UGS [Unified City Trade Union], surrounded by newsmen, explained:

"They are avoiding talks with us because it is easier for them to complete the entire job with those who do what they want. Now it is clear that we are dealing with a government trade union that serves the authorities, and the colleagues from the Samostalni trade unions who passed by us that way have betrayed both the workers and us, who initiated today's negotiations."

Because it was clear after an hour's wait that the Nezavisni would not gain access to the building of the republic Government, they went off to the Youth Center, where they held a press conference. Along the way, they told us that they would not even have known where today's meeting was being held if they had not been told unofficially by some of their colleagues in the Samostalni trade unions.

"This is a deception, because in the joint meeting in the DMB we agreed that only representatives of the two trade unions from the enterprise would go to the negotiations, not the leadership from the republic or city trade union, which has again deceived the rank and file," said Milosav Stanic. Embittered Milorad Veljkovic of the Nezavisni Trade Union of Teleoptika, a joint-stock company, had a brief message for Bozovic: "You have driven us into the streets to seek justice, and the fact that you called the police to guard the entrance against us indicates that you represent a miserable government that is afraid of its workers."

[Box, p 14]

Demands

Yesterday, the metalworkers repeated once again the demands which they set forth back on 20 October. They demanded to be paid no later than 20 October the undiminished September prices of labor in the amount of 45,500 dinars (which was not done), and to be paid for coming months no later than the 15th of the month. The trade unionists have also been staunch in their demand that in future the lowest price of labor not be taxed and that the Government of Serbia stand as guarantor of fulfillment of these demands. Finally, the metalworkers

are demanding that every measure be taken immediately for removal of the sanctions so that production can finally get moving.

Increased Dissatisfaction of Textile Workers

93BA0164C Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 30 Oct 92 p 14

[Article by D. Sverko: "Let's Be Metalworkers!"]

[Text] "We want to be metalworkers, too!" many textile and leather workers are saying these days. If we strike, then we will get higher wages from the government.

Although in paraphrase, this message has been heard in past days in certain meetings of business executives who are producers of textiles, leather, and footwear, illustrating more than any numbers would do the depth of the abyss into which the Serbian economy is sinking. As the fifth month of the economic blockade with which the world has ringed Yugoslavia came to an end, an economy that is less and less able to maintain any production at all began to crack from within as well. In the general distribution of poverty, shots began to be exchanged over who is poorer. Those who were forced to close down their factories first and who first went out into the streets have turned out to be privileged.

There are about 450,000 metalworkers in Serbia. According to an analysis of the Economic Chamber of Serbia made public the other day, enterprises in the metal and electrical equipment industries (tools and machine tools, wire and cable, storage batteries, certain household appliances, transportation equipment, shipbuilding, and machinebuilding) are recording the largest drop in output. Production of most of the transportation equipment, an industry employing 80,000 workers, has for all practical purposes come to a halt, and output over the first nine months of this year is down 60.8 percent from the same period of last year. Production of nonferrous metals has dropped off all of 76 percent.

It is also a fact that half of the 200,000 workers employed in the textile and leather industry are on mandatory leave, and this grouping, which is between 70 and 80 percent import-dependent, no longer has any reserves at all. Many factories are shut down (Kluz in Belgrade, Branko Krcmanovic in Paracin, Cveta Dabic in Uzice) and the rest are planning production only to the end of this year. Beko closed down five of its factories as of 1 November.

The workers in these two groupings are the most numerous beneficiaries of the fund to compensate the personal incomes of those on mandatory leave because of the blockade (and they receive 70 percent of the resources). The number of workers forced to take a vacation is growing at a progressive rate, and it is calculated that out of the employed work force of 2.3 million, 1 million workers will soon be unemployed. It is expected that a large number of construction workers, whose production has fallen off sharply, will soon be knocking on the door of the fund. Or workers in the chemical grouping.

Will any of them flaunt their privileges, above all a higher personal income wangled under the pressure of strikes, in front of the textile workers? Will they also forget that they are in the same boat and the only question is whether the bow or stern will sink first? Which is why the resentment of those asking why they are working when their fellows on mandatory leave have higher earnings should be refashioned into asking "Who is it making it possible for them to do that?"

Macedonia

Frckovski Accuses FRY of Fomenting Trouble

AU1311161492 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Excerpts] SKOPJE, Nov 13 (AFP)—Macedonia, which broke with the Yugoslav Federation little more than a year ago, is increasingly concerned it might be Serbian nationalists' next target for territorial expansion.

"Serbia has not given up its ambitions over Macedonia," said Macedonian Interior Minister Ljubomir Frckovski.

He said agents from the Yugoslav Army secret service—the KOS—are implicated in clashes that broke out between ethnic Albanians and police last week in the Macedonian capital Skopje that left four dead and 30 injured. [passage omitted]

The KOS is using Macedonia's Albanian nationalists—who are pushing for autonomy in Albanian-majority zones—to try to destabilize the situation, according to Frckovski, who pointed to what he called Belgrade's open claim on a Serbian-majority zone.

He was referring to a statement by the deputy speaker of the Serbian parliament, Pavic Obradovic, after Macedonia's independence proclamation, that the new Yugoslavia must include Serbs in the Kumanova valley and in Skopska Crna Gora, in northern Macedonia. [passage omitted]

The interior minister also suspects that Serbian paramilitary groups are infiltrating Macedonia to stir up trouble. [passage omitted]

A 1991 census said 44,160 Serbs live in Macedonia—only slightly more than two percent of the population. [passage omitted]

Map of 'Greater Macedonia' Published in Skopje

LD1411203792 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1853 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Skopje, November 14 (TANJUG)—A big wall map of a "Greater Macedonia," which comprises the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and parts of

four neighbouring countries, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Greece, Albania and Bulgaria, was published in Macedonia on Saturday [14 November].

Macedonia broke away from Yugoslavia last year, just as did the Republics of Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, but it is the only of the four which has not been recognized by the European Community, the reason for which has been strong opposition by Greece.

Official Athens maintains that Macedonia cannot be recognized before it changes its name, which is the same as the name of Greece's northern province and which, in the opinion of Athens, reflects territorial claims.

On the map published by DETSKA RADOST of Skopje, capital of Macedonia, the northern border of the "new state of Macedonia" goes deep inside the southeastern part of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, as far as the town of Bosilegrad on the border with Bulgaria.

The map shows the eastern border of "Greater Macedonia" to be in Bulgaria, along the Rhodope mountain range and the River Mesta.

The southern border is in the Aegean Sea and cuts across Mount Olympus, dividing it into two parts —the "Macedonian" and the Greek.

The map shows the Greek port-city of Thessaloniki, the Mount Athos monasteries on the Chalcidice Peninsula in Greece, and the Greek island of Thasos to be also part of the "Greater Macedonia."

The western border of the "new state of Macedonia" cuts deep inside the territory of Albania on the map.

Kosovo

Socialists Nominate Milosevic for President

LD1411173292 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1558 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Pristina, 14 Nov (TANJUG)—At today's extended session of the executive committee of the provincial committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] for Kosovo-Metohija, at which the candidates for federal and republican deputies put forward by the SPS municipal committees were discussed, the proposal of the SPS municipal committees and members of the party in Kosovo-Metohija to put forward Slobodan Milosevic as the SPS candidate for republic president was unanimously adopted.

Rugova Refuses Meeting With Serbian Premier

LD1411173592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1706 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, November 14 (TANJUG)—Leader of ethnic Albanians in Serbia's southern province of Kosovo and Metohija Ibrahim Rugova has turned down an invitation to talks from Serbia's Prime Minister Radoman Bozovic, the prime minister's office said on Saturday [14 November].

Rugova's office replied that "no talks which are not held in the presence of (representatives of) international institutions are wanted."

Rugova is the leader of the Democratic Union of Kosovo, the most influential political organization of ethnic Albanians in the province.

Bozovic will next week visit Kosovo and Metohija and hold talks with local businessmen. The visit was used to renew the invitation to representatives of ethnic-Albanian political parties, including Rugova, to talks on the position of the Albanian national minority and other issues relating to the current situation in the province, Serbia's Information Ministry said on Friday.

The office of Serbia's prime minister said Bozovic regretted that ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija were rejecting dialogue. It said, "the government of Serbia is firm in its belief that its choice of dialogue and a peaceful and negotiated resolution of all topical problems in the province is correct."

The ethnic-Albanian separatists, who want the province to break away and join neighbouring Albania, have steadily been rejecting the invitations to dialogue coming from the Yugoslav authorities and the authorities of the Republic of Serbia and have been trying to internationalize the Kosovo issue.

In an effort to draw the international public's attention to Kosovo and Metohija, a terrorist attack was staged on Wednesday morning on the soldiers standing guard outside the command of the Army of Yugoslavia Corps in the provincial capital of Pristina. Two Army of Yugoslavia soldiers were seriously wounded in the attack and one of the ethnic-Albanian terrorists was killed.

Rugova, however, told a news conference in Pristina on Friday that the Army of Yugoslavia had "staged" the incident, but he failed to provide any evidence in support of his allegation.

Under the pressure of separatists, ethnic-Albanian pupils and students in Kosovo and Metohija have been boycotting classes in the Albanian language for the past two years, rejecting Serbia's curriculums and insisting on those taught in neighbourng Albania.